WORLD / A19
Suicide blast kills 25 at Baghdad dinner

ENTERTAINMENT / D4
Five Pinoy musicians talk about their famous alma mater in Boston

BUSINESS / B1
Investors' concern shifts to export slowdown

SPORTS / A21
Wang gives medal-deprived RP reason to be happy

ACROSS / A14
Lanao folk grouping for self-defense

Joker seeks suspension of SC hearings on MOA

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. JOKER ARROYO YESTERDAY called for the suspension of Supreme Court hearings on the memorandum of agreement (MOA) on an expanded Moro homeland to give the government "elbow room" to prosecute the war against rogue Moro guerrillas.

JOKER SEEKS A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, August 26, 2008 ★ 6 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 262 P10 ...www.inquirer.net

Tropical depression forming near Bicol

HEAVY RAIN IS EXPECTED OVER WIDE sections of Luzon and Eastern Visayas in the next few days, as a low-pressure area is brewing east of Bicol, according to the weather bureau.

The agency also spotted a shallow low-pressure area lingering 340 kilometers north-northwest of Palawan, but this would have no adverse effects on the

TROPICAL A11

'Lumad' want self-rule, too

YOUNG CASUALTIES OF WAR This photo, released by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, shows a group of rebel fighters looking over the bodies of their young comrades who were killed when the military launched air and artillery strikes for several days over the MILF's Camp Darapanan in Sharif Kabuntalan.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MILF

Tribal leaders seek autonomous region

By Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez
Inquirer Mindanao

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—FIRED UP BY THE PROposed Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE) that would govern an expanded Bangsamoro homeland, the *Lumad* (indigenous peoples in Mindanao) are seeking an autonomous region for themselves.

At a gathering here yesterday of around 200 representatives of 13 indigenous peoples' communities in Mindanao and Palawan, several tribal leaders called for the creation of an Autonomous Region for the Lumad of Mindanao.

The proponents are *Lumad* leaders critical of the memorandum of agreement (MOA) on ancestral domain between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the government.

The MOA, aimed at ending the Moro armed struggle in Mindanao, seeks to expand the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Sulu, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and Marawi City) as a Bangsamoro homeland with broad economic and political powers.

Timuay Nonoling Mandel said the *Lumad* should have been primarily consulted in the crafting of the MOA as many areas included in the BJE were their ancestral domains.

"Who gave the MILF the authority to represent all the people in Mindanao and propose the BJE? We have a claim to these lands. There are pending CADT [certificate of ancestral domain title] for these lands," he said.

Mindanao hosts at least half the 11.6 million indigenous

LUMAD A13

2 war widows call for end to bloodshed

SOLDIER'S WAKE Ma. Elena Beatriz, widow of Lt. Col. Angel Beatriz, introduces President Macapagal-Arroyo to her children—Mark, Vincent, Curtis and Twinkle—during her husband's wake in Iloilo City.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—ONE LOST AN Angel, the other an Angelo.

Yesterday, the widows of two soldiers killed in a shooting war between government troops and Moro rebels issued separate but similar calls for an end to the violence.

Daisy Abreo and Maria Elena Antonio Cruz Benitez said efforts to stop the armed conflict should be seriously taken to prevent the loss of more lives.

Daisy's husband, Marine Cpl. Angelo Abreo, 30, of Mindanao District here, died on Aug. 11 from wounds he suffered during a firefight with Moro Is-

2 WAR, A11

Ground, air assaults killed 125 rebels–AFP

By Nikko Dizon
and Inquirer Mindanao

THE MILITARY YESTERDAY said troops were closing in on two recalcitrant rebel commanders and claimed to have killed 125 of their men, in two weeks of ground and air assaults in Maguindanao that also claimed the lives of civilians.

Dr. Elizabeth Sotsuna, Maguindanao provincial physician, said five civilians were killed and three others were wounded in military air strikes and artillery and mortar fire in Datu Piang town on Friday and Saturday.

Among the dead were a pregnant woman identified as Sinaniya Dimaukang, 35, who was hit by a 155-mm artillery shell; Hatiedy Abubakar, 14, who was killed in an air strike;

GROUND A13

'To get to the mastermind, you must follow the money'

By Fe Zamora
(Sixth of a series)

(Editor's Note: This part of the series is based on interviews with ret-Col. Irwin Ver, former commander of the Presidential Guards, the AFP personnel component of the Presidential Security Command (PSC), retired Col. Nestor Kanigbak, former chief of the now defunct Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police (PC-INP) component attached to the Aviation Security Command (Avscom), retired Air Force Sgt. Ruben Carandang, driver of the van used by Team Alpha; Magdalo's (August) chaplain Fr. Antonio Rangi; and the sworn statement of ex-Sgt. Claro Lat, one of the 16 soldiers convicted in the Aquino-Galman case. Three sources—a retired major who talked to the businessman golf course in Cavite, a retired Commodore general and an active Army colonel—requested anonymity when they shared their insights in a series of interviews in coffee shops in Quezon City.)

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE triggerman, follow the relationships. If you want to know the mastermind, follow the money.

This was the tip given by police and military sources in the course of the Inquirer research into the assassination of opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. on Aug. 21, 1983, at the then Manila International Airport.

The advice of the sources Starr with Rolando Galman, whom the military had tagged

TO GET, A11

London has tough act to follow after Beijing

BEIJING—CHINA BID FAREwell to the Olympic Games with all the theatricality with which they were welcomed as the Bird's Nest stadium.

To describe the Olympic closing ceremony that a capacity crowd of 91,000 witnessed on Sunday as "fantastic" would be both literally accurate and yet somehow inadequate.

It all added up, as indeed the whole Games had, into a very hard act for London to follow in 2012.

For how could Londoners top this?

Perhaps there was a clue in the closing ceremony's handover section that featured an aging rocker in Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page, a pop star propelled to prominence by a reality television show in Leona Lewis and footballer David Beckham, a man whose massive global celebrity brought him to

LONDON A6

TOP British soccer player David Beckham kicks the ball during the closing ceremony of the Beijing Olympics. London will host the next Olympiad in 2012.

REUTERS

Beauty pageant for nuns to be launched

ROME—AN ITALIAN PRIEST AND theologian on Sunday said he was organizing an online beauty pageant for nuns to give them more visibility within the Catholic Church and to fight the stereotype that they are all old and dour.

The "Miss Sister 2008" contest will start in September on a blog run by the Rev. Antonio Rungi and will give nuns from around the world a chance to showcase their work and their image.

"Nuns are a bit excluded; they are a bit marginalized in ecclesiastical

BEAUTY A4

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

EZ2 SUERTRES

FOUR DIGIT

MEGALOTTO 6/45

P12,875,850.00

Kuwait pours $1B into Clark

RP 'anticipating with excitement' investment that would bring 70,000 jobs

By Christine D. Avendaño

CLARK FIELD—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo yesterday said the Philippines was "anticipating with excitement" Kuwait's first major investment in the country, a $1.025-billion world-class logistics and service center that, according to its investors, would generate 70,000 jobs.

The President welcomed the Kuwaiti Gulf and Link (KGL) Group—which established the Global Gateway Logistics City here. This makes KGL a member of the country's so-called "billion dollar club," she said.

"With the investment contract we are launching today, KGL joins Texas Instruments and other members of our billion-dollar club," Ms Arroyo said as the groundbreaking ceremony for the center, the largest logistics hub in the country, at the 2,500-hectare Clark Civil Aviation Complex (CAC).

The KGL project will service customers onland and dependent businesses including, but not limited to, warehousing, distribution, multimodal logistics, light manufacturing, alongside complementary business operations and facilities to support aviation-related activities within the CAC.

"We welcome Kuwait's trust in our economy," Ms Arroyo told the audience which included Kuwaiti Sheik Ahmad Duaeej Sabaan al-Sabah, a member of the Kuwaiti royal family who came to represent KGL.

The President said the center would be "the best service and logistics center in the region."

"We anticipate with excitement their state-of-the-art facilities, including excellent infrastructure, a comprehensive security system and sophisticated communications network, along with many other physical amenities," she said.

Ms Arroyo said the project would be able to get jobs during the construction of the center and when it becomes operational.

She recalled that when the Kuwaiti prime minister visited the country early this month he said his country would welcome "even a million" Filipinos to its work force.

Kuwait hosts the third largest Filipino community in the Middle East. There are over 140,000 Filipinos in Kuwait.

"There is no guess on the number of Filipino workers in Kuwait," the President said.

She also announced that Kuwait had offered to upgrade two hospitals. The Diamo regional hospital into a national cancer center and the Canadian regional medical center into a regional cancer center. Kuwait has also offered to modernize the Zamboanga Medical Center surgery block, she said.

"The Kuwaiti government's pro-jects and the Kuwaiti investments in our country inspire our efforts to achieve legacy No. 5 which is to bring peace to Mindanao," Ms Arroyo said, in referring to the 10-point agenda of her administration.

ARROYO turns over the first shovelful of dirt heralding the start of construction of the $1.025-billion Global Gateway Logistics City at Clark, Pampanga. Awaiting their turn are, from left, KGL investment director Kevin Kinch; KGL president Mark Williams; KGL group of companies chair Dr. Mahdy al-Jassal; Kuwaiti Sheik Ahmad Duaeej Sabaan al-Sabah and CIAC president and CEO Victor Jose Luciano. (Joselito Dy)

It's all about being No.1

Sales Management Diploma

Learn strategic and tactical skills to become an award-winning Sales Manager.

September 23 - November 15, 2008

Module I: Sales Management Executive Skills
Sales Management Fundamentals
Effective Teams Forecasting Techniques
Data Mapping and Organizing
Managing the Human Capital
The Art of Negotiation
Sales Key Result Areas

Module II: Sales Management Strategic Skills
Dynamic Leadership Techniques
Profitable Distribution Channels
Negotiation Skills and Tactics
Key Account Management
Category Management
Sales Management Systems and Reviews
The Sales Manager as a Corporate Strategist

For details and registration, call Francis de Leon at 635-2642 or Marbeth Calanog at 840-1742 or write to us at ace-abd@apo.ateneo.edu. You may also visit www.ace.ateneo.edu and REGISTER ONLINE.

Center for Continuing Education

The ATENEO Brand is your Career Advantage

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR

TO: ALL PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICES AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: Revised Payment and Submission of Proof of Premium Contributions as Requirements for Accreditation of Professional Health Care Providers

I. RATIONALE

II. Individually Paying Members

III. Non-Paying/Retiree Members

IV. Employed Members

V. REPEALING CLAUSE

VI. EFFECTIVITY

(Sgd.) LYDIA S. VILLEGAS
Acting President & CEO

Date signed: July 24, 2008

Marine officer's plea denied

THE SUPREME Court has denied the plea of detained Marine Col. Ariel Querubin to stop court-martial proceedings against him for his alleged role in the failed February 2006 coup against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The high court dismissed on "purely procedural" Querubin's contention he would not get a fair trial from the military. It also said the charges against him were valid.

Doubted

Querubin contested the validity of the Armed Forces chief of Staff's order creating a special general court-martial to try him and 20 other officers. He also questioned the charges sheet and raised concerns about securing a fair trial.

A pivotal investigating panel earlier recommended that the charges against Querubin be dropped for the staff judge advocate disagreed and recommended the Marine officer be charged and subjected to a general court-martial.

Querubin brought his case to the Court of Appeals which ruled against him, prompting him to elevate the matter to the Supreme Court.

Turned down

In a July 22 resolution released recently, the high court also denied his appeal. "From the AFP chief of staff accordability has authority to convene a general court-martial and SGOM No. 2 has jurisdiction over the charges filed against petitioner under the Articles of War, prohibitory current injunction issued by court-martial from exercising its jurisdiction," it said.

As for Querubin's fear of not getting a fair trial, the high court said the AFP chief of staff has the power to convene or order the convening of a special court-martial, pursuant to Executive Order No. 464 (2005) and Memorandum Order No. 211 (2006).

It also said the charges against him were valid because they were based on the articles of war

Solons want Sabio's head

SENIORS FEUD: They locked a petition before the Integrated Bar of the Philippines seeking the disbarment of Presidential Commissioner on Good Government Dante Canido Sabio for allegedly interfering in a Court of Appeals case being handled by his younger brother, a justice of the court.

"It's about time he became accountable for his actions. It FEELS about he has been getting away with a lot without explaining," said Sen. Francis Escudero. Sabio is to take the witness stand today before a panel of retired Supreme Court justices investigating alleged bribery and other anomalies in the CA.

Sen. Richard Gordon said Canido Sabio had a lot of explaining to do when he faces the SC panel today.

"If he has any skeletons (prophets), Sabio should take a leave from his office considering there are serious charges against him," Gordon said.

Lawyer Hernando Perez has asked the IBP to slap the extreme penalty on Sabio for purportedly breaking the profession's ethical standards by twice talking to his brother, Court of Appeals Justice Jose Sabio Jr., to lobby for the Government Service Insurance System in its case against Manila Electric Co. (Meralco). MRC Cabucgayan Jr.

THE GENERICS PHARMACY 124 branches 20% savings
CHEAPER MEDICINES HERE
7127777

Canon imageRUNNER
Canon
Inspiring You Always
3-IN-1 PLUS 1

Sick of LEAKS?
Consult the expert...
Dr. SEAL is an acrylic, permanent water-proofing membrane that:
Dr. SEAL

imageRunner Color 2880i Multi-function Color Copier
Free Lenovo N51 Laptop
lenovo
Call Lisa at 894-9000 for more details or log on to www.canon.com.ph for more information.
Business Color be simple

i like myself
Call now! 892 9511 927 0465
John Robert Powers
SAVE AS MUCH AS P16,000 WHEN YOU ENROLL BEFORE AUGUST 31.

Dawn impressed with non-surgical light treatment that can visibly rejuvenate skin after 30 minutes!

Actress Dawn Zulueta is all praises for IPL, the non-surgical photorejuvenation treatment at Facial Care Centre. "One of my problems has always been the eruption of acne, which causes my blemishes," she reveals. "Since my skin is oily, I became prone to it. When I started doing IPL, I noticed that my pores got smaller and I stopped getting breakouts as early as the 3rd treatment! Over time, my skin was looking clearer, and complexion-wise, so much better. Before, I couldn't leave the house without putting on some concealer on my blemishes. Now I can go out with only sunblock! I'm confident enough to do without make-up because my skin is clear and even."

What is IPL?
IPL stands for Intense Pulsed Light treatment that uses a broad spectrum of light to painlessly and safely treat different skin problems.

What can IPL treat?
IPL can help remove dark spots, blemishes, freckles, skin discoloration, spider veins, broken capillaries, wrinkles and other pigmentations on the face, neck, chest, back, hands and virtually anywhere these skin imperfections may appear. It can also control the visible oil production and prevent the onset of acne breakouts. This made IPL appeal to Dawn, who has naturally oily, acne-prone skin. Since IPL heats up the underlying dermis (a deeper layer beneath the skin's superficial layer), it stimulates the blue cells to produce more collagen, repairing skin damage and promoting healthier, younger-looking skin.

What results can be expected from IPL?
Aside from clearing up the dark spots and blemishes, IPL gives skin a flawless complexion even without make-up. Pores are refined, giving the skin a smoother texture. Dawn happily claims she can confidently go out with only sunblock on her face because after her regular IPL treatments, immediately after an IPL treatment, clients attest they get compliments for having a noticeably healthy, person glow on their skin.

How long before I can see these results?
Visible results are definitely noticed upon the first treatment of IPL. Pores are tightened, and the skin appears to have a more even complexion. Over time, one can see more improvements as their skin's appearance and texture as dark spots, blemishes, freckles, spider veins and other skin flaws are diminished. Dawn noticed the significant reduction of oil and breakouts on her 3rd treatment of IPL, and continued to see an improvement in her complexion after regular IPL treatments.

Getting an IPL treatment

How will I feel during the treatment?
The treatment is painless, as it only uses a broad spectrum of light over the areas to be treated. It only takes approximately 30 minutes, and has no downtime. In fact, one can go on their regular schedule right after an IPL treatment! It's that quick and easy!

IPL is an ideal treatment for women who lead active and busy lifestyles because they can conveniently fit IPL treatments in their hectic schedules. With quick visible results and relatively no downtime, it is definitely a must-do for women who want to get beautiful, flawless skin without the hassles! Call Facial Care Centre at 892-5636 (TM/PL), Cebu (273-1807/120) and Pampanga (981-0808/09).

Giant London party marks handover

LONDON—AROUND 40,000 PEOPLE, including record-breaking American swimmer Michael Phelps, gathered on Sunday to celebrate London taking over from Beijing as the host of the 2012 Olympic Games.

The spectacle marked the Olympics closing ceremony in Beijing on giant TV screens set up on the Mall near Buckingham Palace, the official residence of Queen Elizabeth II, before enjoying a pop concert.

The flag-waving crowd roared their approval when the big screens showed London Mayor Boris Johnson taking possession of the Olympic flag during the ceremony in Beijing.

The climax grew even louder in London when, thousands of kilometers away in the Chinese capital, England football star David Beckham kicked a football from the roof of a red double-decker London bus.

At the curtain raiser shown in Beijing, British rock acts, including Muse, Will Young and singer-pianist Katherine Jenkins, entertained the crowd in London.

The live star appearances on the London party was Phelps, the 23-year-old from Baltimore, who won eight gold medals in the pool, the highest number ever by one competitor at the Olympics.

He promised that he would be back in Britain in 2012 in search of more gold.

"I still have things that I want to do in the sport, I've never competed ever here in London and **I'm looking forward to really experience** more of the city and be able to prepare myself so hopefully we've some fun times."

As the lucky figure of Phelps took to the stage, he was greeted by a fly-past by the Red Arrows, the British Royal Air Force's aerobatics team, trailing red, white and blue smoke.

The pre-show ceremony over the British capital on the day is July 2005 when London was awarded the 2012 Games.

Organizers said more than 200,000 people took part in Olympic handover parties across **Britain, including in the ancient English city of** Birmingham, which will host some of the Olympic football matches, and in Weymouth on the south coast where the sailing competitions will take place.

Bradley Wiggins, a double gold medalist in Britain's phenomenally successful cycling team in Beijing, had joined both to appear at the party along with Philip Hindes, who won silver in the triple jump.

The British team's success at the Beijing Olympics, where it won 19 gold medals and finished fourth in the overall table, has taken many here by surprise. Some commentators say the British team's performance could help **dissipate some of the cynicism about how** much the London Games will cost.

The original budget was £5.4 billion, but this has already risen to £9.3 billion ($17.2 billion).

From the queen has been caught up by Olympic fever—she said she had been 'following Team GB's successes' "with great interest and admiration."

"As a nation, we now look forward to holding the Olympic games in London in 2012," the monarch said in a statement released on Sunday.

AFP

London has tough ...

From page A1

mind recognition.

Before the two-hour ceremony began, drone would have been from among some in Britain that London Mayor Boris Johnson would make one of the jobs for which he is so celebrated at home.

But Johnson, who cost in a formal suit indeed just like a scruffy schoolboy, took his hands out of his pockets long enough to manage waving the Olympic flag without causing an international incident during the formal handover.

Then the crowd was treated to the surreal sight of a double-decker London bus, albeit a modern one as opposed to the classic "Routemaster," being driven round the Bird's beer by a trio of British divers, including Olympic champion Chris Hoy and Victoria Pendleton.

Whatever your view on this particular scene, it was academically British. Then a jarringly up-tempo version of the traditional English song "Greensleeves" blared out.

'Whole Lotta Love'

A child carrying a football, accompanied by a British school-crossing lady, complete with "Stop, Traffic" lollipop, walked across the backs of dancers in the double-decker bus, which then opened up to reveal a stage where Lewis and guitar hero Page belted out a version of the Led Zeppelin rock classic "Whole Lotta Love."

And emerging from the top of the stage came Beckham, accompanied by the girl with the football. Beckham didn't say anything but, such is his fame, he didn't need to do more than kick the ball.

When the main event began, movie director Danny Boyle, the man responsible for the opening ceremony, again revealed a rollicked vision featuring hundreds of dancers, ribbons, traditional lore and fireworks at 10 locations across the city.

Highlights for the closing included a duet by tenor Placido Domingo and Chinese soprano Song Zuying as well as a display by survivors launched from inflatable lances from a coastal area school.

Even more spectacular, was the acrobatic sight of musicians suspended on giant cranes hovered from the Bird's Nest roof looking like they were taking part in adverts designed to demonstrate an adhesive's strength.

International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge said in his closing remarks that "through these Games, the world learned more about China, and China learned more about the world."

AFP

Y28 years Guthrie Jensen
CONSULTANTS TO MANAGEMENT
SHARPER SKILLS FASTER RESULTS

STRATEGIC MARKETING
September 16 – 18, 2008
Mandarin Oriental Hotel

This program is tailor-fit for **sales directors, product and brand managers, business development officers,** or even **top executives** who want to enhance their strategic marketing skills.

Do you want to drive your company towards marketing success?

Marketing is more than just coming up with ads and talking to clients. Learn the basics of **innovative marketing planning. Segment** your market, choose your **target**, and **position** your product. Manage your offerings to **build competitive advantage** and understand how to **operationalize strategic plans.** With **Strategic Marketing** you will:

- Understand how to operationalize strategic plans into marketing success
- Recognize and hone the competitive advantage of your companies and brands
- Rationalize your target markets with sharp clarity
- Create and maintain a strong brand presence in your chosen market segments
- Position your brands more wisely
- Craft high impact promotion and advertising strategies
- Forge efficient marketing channels
- Price your products more advantageously

CONFIDENCE BUILDING
September 23 –25, 2008
Mandarin Oriental Hotel

This program is for **all members of your organization** who wish to bring their confidence levels to new heights.

Do you want to bring your confidence level to new heights?

Are anxiety and poor self-esteem getting in the way of your ability to perform well? Influencing more people by projecting greater credibility requires boosting your self-confidence. Your clients and colleagues will immediately sense this through you body language and speech, allowing you to take control of those limiting situations. With **Confidence Building** you will:

- Acknowledge the real person inside you
- Feel more worthy of yourself and your talents
- Learn to control the negative thinking demons in your mind
- Overcome the fear of committing mistakes all the time
- Take control of your limiting self impressions about what you can and cannot do
- Put across confident body language to everyone you meet
- Receive criticisms or feedback without getting upset of feeling bad
- Deliver bad news without feeling uncomfortable

ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES
October 7 – 9, 2008
Mandarin Oriental Hotel

This program is for **sales people, account managers,** and **key account managers** who want to make the most out of their key accounts.

Do you have Order Takers or Account Managers?

Are they content to deliver simply what the customers order? Are they happy with a small share of the customers' "wallet?" Has the competition eased them out of a large account? Do they think that just because the orders are coming in monthly then they are managing the account right? If not the account is safe and will not shift to the competition? The answer is clear: **They need a plan. ...They need a strategy!** With **Account Management Strategies,** the participants will:

- Protect accounts from competition
- Build customer loyalty by proving that their company is indispensable to the client
- Raise the level of their relationship from mere supplier to that of a strategic partner.
- Reach revenue goals by maximizing the potential of each client.
- Develop long-term profitable relationships with large accounts.

For inquiries and reservations call
Ani, Caroline, Diane, Liz or Tessa at 892-1329, 894-6462, or 892-7041
or visit www.guthriejensen.com
4th Floor ACE Building, 101-103 Rada cor. Dela Rosa Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City

Beauty pageant ...

From page A1

life," Rungi told The Associated Press after Indian media carried reports of the idea. "This will be an occasion to make their contribution more visible."

Rungi, a theologian and schoolmaster from the Naples area, said that visitors to his site would have a month to "vote for the one they consider a model."

But no swimsuits

State wishing to participate in the contest should send their pictures in Rungi and fill out a profile including information about their life and vocations. It will be up to them to choose whether or not to wear the traditional veil or with their heads uncovered.

"We are not going to parade nuns in bathing suits," Rungi said by telephone from his southern Italian town of Montoggiano.

Even being ugly is not a recognized for becoming a nun. External beauty is gift from God, and not counter Made it."

A newspaper on Sunday quoted the priest as saying that "nuns are above all women and beauty is a gift from God."

"This contest will be a way to show there isn't just the beauty we see on television but also a more discreet charm," Rungi told the daily Corriere della Sera.

"You really think all nuns are old, unsisted and sad? This isn't the case anymore, thanks to the arrival in our convents of young and vital nuns," notably from Africa and Latin America, the priest noted.

Idea from nuns themselves

Rungi said the idea was first suggested to him by nuns with whom he regularly prays and tweaks. He hopes there will be dozens of submissions since the website is married.

"I hope the next (pageant) won't just take place online but that we can organize a real show that can take place during the Miss Italy contest," he said.

But the rumors drew criticism from an association of Catholic mothers.

"It's an initiative that holds the role of nuns who have dedicated themselves to God," the group's president, Alberto Gambino, told Italy's Ansa news agency on Sunday. Reporte, from AFP and AFP

PROtech
HOLD UP!
CASH CONTROL

MONEY SAFE
A must for food & retail stores with absentee owners

NIGHT DEPOSITORY
For businesses dealing with large amounts of cash

* Allows deposit of envelopes or money bag
* Provided with anti-fishing device
* Anchors to fix safe on floor
* Dual locking – key lock and combination lock

DON'T CHANCE IT. PROTECH IT.

PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY, INC.
Physical Security Equipment
www.protech.com.ph

Miriam: Probe ex-solon

SEN. MIRIAM DE. Santiago has urged a probe of a former colleague in the upper chamber who, using pork barrel funds, allegedly pocketed some P35 million in the purchase of overpriced medicines for Central Visayas two years ago.

Santiago filed Senate Resolution 547 directing the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation of reports government hospitals had P8 million worth of supplies and expired medicines in their stocks.

Santiago based her resolution on a 2007 Commission on Audit report which said the Department of Budget and Management purchased 14,688 boxes of antibiotic sans at P3,199.12 each for a total of P27.46 million.

The COA noted the purchase price was eight times what the Department of Health paid for the same medicines from the same manufacturer and distributor, which was P127 per box or a total of P2,007,360.

Neither the COA nor Santiago identified the former senator. GMA Gabe manages.ph

The new Ford Everest ICE. The movies go wherever you do.

Ford

Make Every Day Exciting

WORLD CLASS SLIMMING, FITNESS, FACE AND SKIN BY SLIMMERS WORLD

"How I lost 6 pounds... and gained a Bikini body in just 30 days"!

CORE POWER Training plus BIOMETRICS is the Ultimate in FITNESS, FAT & CELLULITE LOSS. It's the way that Pearl Kelley lost & its Under Medical Supervision to win the Miss Bikini Philippines - International pageant.

BUY 1 MONTH, GET 1 MONTH FREE!

- NO MONTHLY DUES! ON LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP.
- NO JOINING FEES!
- CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%.
- MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS.

PLUS!

PERSONAL TRAINING

ALL THE LATEST AEROBICS

BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!

DIAMOND DERMPEEL | HOT MASSAGE | WRINKLES FACE | BODY CONTOUR

MESO WHITE * MESO REJUVENATION * COSMETIC FILLERS * BOTOCELL-FACE * WART REMOVAL * LASER ACNE TREATMENT * PERMANENT LASER HAIR REMOVAL * FACIAL SKIN WHITENING *

Introducing... OUTRALIFT

LOOK 5 YEARS YOUNGER IN JUST 30 MINUTES!

CALL OUR ONE - STOP SUPER CENTERS FOR FITNESS, SKIN, BODY AND FACE:

FITNESS HOTLINE: 536-3333

SKIN HOTLINE: 525-8771

MOBILE NUMBER: 091- SLIMMERS (75466377)

www.slimmersworld.com.ph * inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

JDV proposes 'Marshall Plan' to end conflict in Mindanao

ALL IN. NO HIDDEN CHARGES
HONGKONG $39 HOMEBASE $99
BangKok $70 SINGAPORE $121
SYDNEY $258 GUAM $258
BORACAY $258 CEBU $258
DAVAO $258 CAGAYAN DE ORO $258
DEPT. SEPT. 27 to OCT. 31
Promo Fares
Package Tours
JULY LIP!!!
GROUP TOURS
HOLYLAND w/ JORDAN & EGYPT
with GROUP CHAPLAIN (SEPT & OCT)
MARIAN EUROPE PILGRIMAGE
w/ FATIMA & LOURDES
(SEPT 24)
GREECE & TURKEY
(NOV)
Individual Tours - Regular Departure
travelplan inc.
ESTABLISHED 1988
DAISY DAYS SPECIAL FARES
PROMO PACKAGES
DISCOUNTED FARES
SANS TRAVEL & TOURS

By Norman Bordadora

CAUSE FOR DIVISIVE opinion, not Charter change for federalism, is what Mindanao needs to immediately heal peace, according to Pangalinan Rep. Jose de Venecia.

De Venecia has proposed a P50-billion "mini-Marshall plan" for Mindanao to put a stop to the armed conflict with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

De Venecia, a longtime advocate of Charter change and the parliamentary system, said the federal system through Charter change being pushed by the Arroyo administration may only come later as federal states need up to 10 years to efficiently take shape.

"The mini-Marshall plan is a powerful affirmative-action measure that addresses the 1996 peace agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the main secessionist Islamic force, and put a stop to the one-to-Muslim, one-to-Christian ratio in Mindanao," he said. "This is without need to amend the Constitution and without creating a federal state in Mindanao."

The original Marshall Plan was the huge United States effort to revive Europe financially after World War II.

THE GERRY ROXAS FOUNDATION launched yesterday its yearlong 30th anniversary celebration with a reunion of past GRF awardees for leadership and scholarship at Manhattan Suites, Ayala Center, Quezon City. From left...Avelino Cruz, Joaquin Chair Maria Prieto, Jorge Arevalo, Anthony Pangilinan and former Senate President Jovito Salonga were among the guests. MIGUEL DE GUZMAN

In Venezia, in an earlier interview in Dagupan City, expressed misgivings about the Cha-cha being pushed by the Arroyo administration because of speculation it may include extending the term of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Mr. Arroyo and the former Speaker has a falling out after De Venecia's son, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, linked the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, to the $329-million NBN-ZTE-ISR scandal.

A few months later, Mr. Arroyo's allies in the House of Representatives ousted De Venecia from the speakership.

De Venecia said the mini-Marshall plan should be for the WHOLE MILE Island (Jolo/provincial people) and Christians are themselves and communities to fight hunger, poverty and injustice born of years of neglect by the central government.

He said under the plan, it organizes systems, hospitals, markets and build more processing plants would be built, agriculture and fisheries modernized, tourism promoted, scattered ties all over Mindanao expanded, Guimaras-type inconvenience cooperatives created, and other vital infrastructure built.

Preserve your precious videos. Before it's too late
Let us convert your tapes into discs!
into
DVD or VCD
CopyTown
Alabang: Cerna Subdivision Bldg., Madrigal Ave., ALA
Makati: GF, BSAP Bldg., Aguirre St., Legaspi Vill. Tel. 817-7919
Quezon City: Mini Com. Ctr. T. 489-2123 www.copytown.net

Investor visa seen to create jobs for locals

WITH A PROPOSED new visa for foreign investors, more Filipinos would be able to stay in the country instead of having to go abroad to look for work.

In a consultation with the private sector, Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan said the proposed grant of indefinite stay visas to foreigners who employ Filipinos was "a solution to the [continued] migration of our countrymen."

The proposed visa would be given to a foreigner who employs at least 10 Filipinos in a local enterprise.

"The idea here is to encourage foreign companies to come to the Philippines instead," Libanan said in a statement.

Another thinking of one visa for every 10 Filipinos hired," Deputy Immigration Commissioner Roy Alocoo said, adding that there were still some issues to be worked with the Department of Labor and Employment.

To protect the visa from abuse, Ferdinand Aduca, bureau of immigration's technical chief of staff, said the foreigners would be reassessed annually to make sure they fulfilled the visa's minimum requirements.

The job generation visa was conceived by Libanan as part of the bureau's efforts to invite foreign investors to the country. "The B is absolutely serious in creating a climate friendly to legitimate and responsible foreign investment who intend to bring into the Philippines [a] needed capital and technology," he said.

Lawyer Rolando Villones of the Bureau Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines described the visa as "visionary" and a "step in the right direction in gaining the interest and trust of foreign investors."

"This is a great idea that deserves rightful acclaim," Villones said. Jaime Stoddart of the Indian Chamber of Commerce during the consultation. Margaux C. Ortiz

BXB CONFERENCE DISCUSSION SYSTEM
EDC
focus-105
Beijing 3 - 4 Days Tues, Fri
Beijing, Tianjin, Chengde, Qinhuangdao 5 - 8 Days
Shanghai 3 - 4 Days Mon, Wed, Fri
Shanghai, Suzhou, Hangzhou 4 - 6 Days
Beijing, Shanghai 5 Days Tues, Fri
Beijing, Shanghai, Guilin 6 - 8 Days Tues, Fri
Beijing, Xian, Guilin 6 - 8 Days Friday
Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, Guilin 8 - 10 Days Wed, Fri
Yangtze River Cruise Deluxe Tour
Asian Luxuriously Cruise (Deluxe 5 Star)
Also Available Tours
PANDA TRAVEL SERVICE INC.
SAINT MARY'S College of San Jose
OUTSIDERS
723-8808 loc 20

'Real weight loss... for real people like us!'
375 pounds
Hazel Zamora
AFTER 141 pounds
Lani Ayala
AFTER 130 pounds
"With NO stomach-stapling & NO cutting of intestines, the BIB & LAP-BAND CENTER offers the Safest and Most Effective weight loss options for everyday people like us."
Hazel Zamora and Lani Ayala,
BIB & LAP-BAND CENTER patients
The BIB & LAP-BAND CENTER is an Information Center on scientifically-proven weight loss and overweight or severe obesity treatments (for men and women, young or senior).
CALL OR TEXT US TODAY TO SCHEDULE A FREE PATIENT INFO SESSION!!!
The non-surgical BIB (Intragastric balloon) has been used to successfully eliminate or diminish clothes for weight loss of more than 30 post-pregnancy pounds.
BEWARE of other adjustable gastric bandings that produce inferior results. TRUST ONLY in the LAP-BAND adjustable gastric banding.
Scientific publications comparing the LAP-BAND versus other gastric bandings and bariatric procedures available upon request.
Suite LP06 Medical Plaza Makati, Amorsolo St. corner Dela Rosa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City (329 Call 886-4673 or text (0917) LAP-BAND (5272263))
BIB & LAP-BAND CENTER
TOTAL OBESITY SOLUTIONS
SERVICES: Seminars, literature, web access, videos, patient testimonials, private consultations
CLINIC HRS: 10am-6pm (M-F), 10am-3pm (SAT)
www.bibbalc.info www.lapbandbalc.com www.allergansandframed.com

Gordon: No more reason not to automate

PETE'TER "SMART-ing success" of the automated elections in the autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), the Commission on Elections has no more excuse for putting off electronic voting nationwide in 2010.

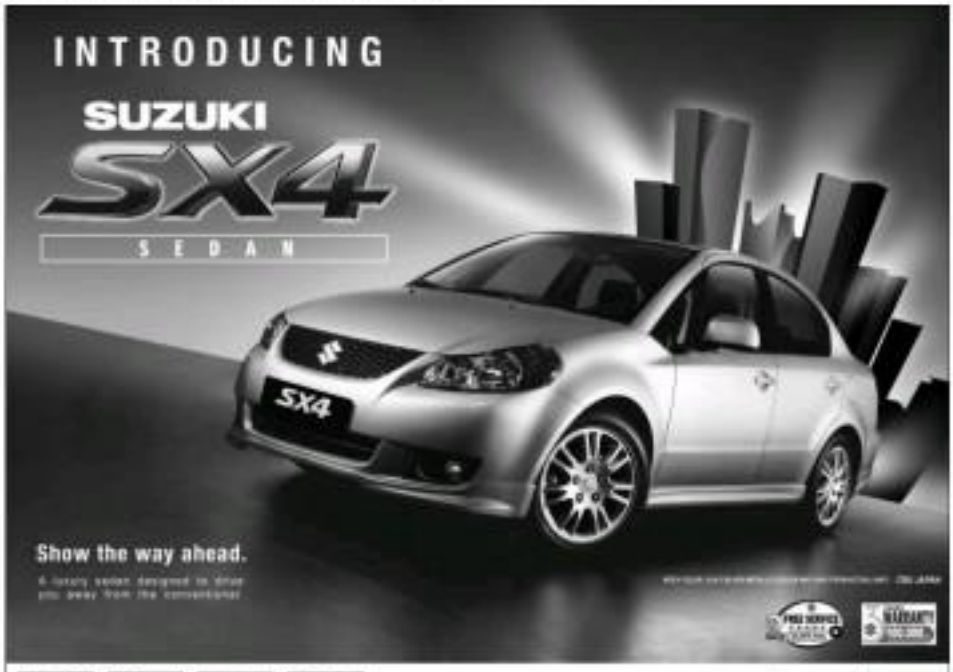
Sen. Richard Gordon has filed Senate Resolution 567 calling for the automation of the 2010 national elections and compelling the Comelec to live up to its duty under the law.

"Under Republic Act 9369, it is the policy of the state to ensure free, orderly, honest, peaceful, credible and informed elections and other similar electoral exercises by improving on the election process and adopting systems involving the use of an automated election system," Gordon said in the resolution.

"While there is still room for improvement with respect to the system currently in place, with the unprecedented voter turnout and speed with which the automated elections in the ARMM was conducted, not to mention the diminished number of skirmishes during election day, we have achieved a considerable part of the objective of the automation of elections," the resolution said.

Gordon expressed confidence the Comelec would be able to solve the technical glitches that caused some of the voting in the ARMM, which observers, however, discounted as normal when operating a new system.

Two sources were used in the Aug. 11 ARMM polls – the direct recording electronic system where candidates are chosen by touching a pad on a screen and the optical mark reader which scans paper ballots on which circles beside candidates' names have been shaded. –GLC, Cebu reporter A.



SUZUKI AUTHORIZED AUTO DEALERS:

www.suzuki.com.ph

Joker seeks suspension of SC hearings on MOA

From page A1

"The environmental circumstances—a war going on and at the same time a Supreme Court hearing ongoing...is neither healthy nor conducive to the national interest," Arroyo said the moment in a telephone interview.

"It would perhaps be better to take a breather—if the petitioners and the government will agree to hold in abeyance the hearings before the high court until the matter clears," he said.

Arroyo said it would not be wise to continue with the legal proceedings against the backdrop of a war against renegade leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the increasing collateral casualties, thus running into problems for the government.

"It will also be disheartening for our troops to be fighting while we argue over the MOA that brought them into war," he stressed.

Take a leaf from US

Arroyo said the Philippines could take a leaf from the American experience.

He said that during the US Civil War and World War II, the US Supreme Court adopted the prudent course of resolving cases, as all alleged sensitive reasons until after the war was over so as not to impede the conduct of the war.

Malacañang has pushed for the dismissal of the petition filed in the high court, saying it has been resolved, moot because the government had decided to renegotiate the MOA with the MILF.

On the other hand, the petitioners, local officials in Mindanao and the Liberal Party, want the case to proceed on the issue of constitutionality of the MOA and decided on the merits.

The MILF, which is not a party in the case in the Supreme Court, considers the MOA "a done deal."

No winners or losers

According to Arroyo, who has appeared many times in the Supreme Court to argue cases on behalf of the Senate, there would be no winners or losers in this approach.

"The executive will not press for dismissal, the petitioners will not press for a decision. No one will be prejudiced because the TRO (temporary restraining order) will be maintained and enforced to maintain the status quo and protect the petitioners," the senator said.

He said that suspending the court proceedings would "give the executive the elbow room to prosecute the military campaign against the MILF renegades and make a thorough and unimpeded remedy of the MOA."

GMA appeals to OIC

At the Clark Ferguson Zone, President Macapagal-Arroyo wrote the chiefs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to support government efforts to go after "weaklings" MILF commanders so that "we can move on with the peace process."

Ms Arroyo spoke to the members of the government's firm resolve to hasten the accomplishment of these objectives so that justice can be achieved and we can renew the peace process," Mr Arroyo said.

"They will likely create problems even after a final agreement would be forged between the government and the MILF," she said, noting that the campaign against these groups "was intended to remove the obstacles to the peace process."

'No all-out war'

"So I say to all Filipinos, to the world, to our Muslim friends, to the OIC, there is no all-out war. What we are doing is to have all-out peace in Mindanao," the President said.

She said her administration wished "for all insurgents to turn their swords into plowshares, their arms into farms."

"We ask all armed groups to be with us, including our brothers in the OIC," she said.

Ms Arroyo also took the occasion not only to thank Brunei but the United States as well "for your support for Mindanao."

Her statement was an apparent slap at opposition senators who were questioning why the United States was supporting the MOA. Which reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Jocelyn Ocampo, Inquirer General Assignment

The Daily Gospel

Tuesday, August 26, 2008
21st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17
Gospel: Mt 23:23-26

Jesus said, "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You do not forget the mint, anise and cumin seeds when you pay the tenth of everything, but then you forget what is more basic: justice, mercy and faith. These you must practice, without neglecting the others. Blind guides! You strain out a mosquito, but swallow a camel.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You fill the plate and the cup with theft and violence, and then pretend to be doing a pious thing. Blind Pharisee! Purify the inside first, then the rest will be purified."

Commentary:

Jesus' stern words to the Pharisees serve as a compelling reminder of the important role of living our faith with integrity and humility. And only as we ourselves live the values of justice and mercy can we call upon others to do well living, but in what we can be of service to others by our lives of justice, mercy and faith. What we have received we are to give as a gift to others.

May we never be guilty of laying burdens on others, but may we always look for opportunities to help others to make progress on the path of life.

SSS can set pay level of own employees, appeals court rules

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS upheld the legality of a provision in the Social Security System law which authorizes the pension fund to set the amount of compensation of its employees and exempts them from the Salary Standardization Law.

The appellate court dismissed the petition of the Ahmakan Gen party-list group, through its president Antonio Alcantara, which sought to have the provision declared unconstitutional for leading to the depletion of SSS funds when it allowed the agency to set the salaries "in an exorbitant, excessive or unnecessary manner."

Alcantara had also argued the SSS law violated the constitutional provision that tasks Congress with standardizing the compensation of government workers.

The law also overturned an earlier delegation of legislative power for not providing sufficient guidelines to the SSS in setting the salaries, and turned SSS employees into a special class, thus violating the equal protection clause in the Constitution, Alcantara said.

In the Aug. 5 decision penned by Justice Mario Guariña III, the appellate court said that given the nature of the SSS, its exemption from the Salary Standardization Law was valid and proper criteria for setting the salaries were in place.

It said Congress' mandate to standardize the salaries of government employees was not absolute, and the legislature branch could make exemptions.

"From a historical perspective, government-owned or -controlled corporations are exempted from salary standardization laws, and the exemption granted to the SSS under its 1997 charter perpetuates the tradition," it said.

The court also said the constitutional provision granting equal protection to individuals or similar circumstances was not violated because the SSS is classified differently in light of its nature.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Arming civilians

A PROPOSAL MADE AFTER CERTAIN GROUPS OF the Moro Islamic Liberation Front went on a bloody rampage in Lanao del Norte, North Cotabato and Maguindanao last week was that residents be allowed to arm themselves for their own protection.

At first the proposal seems reasonable, because the instinct for self-preservation is the strongest human instinct.

EDITORIALS

But why should citizens arm themselves and constitute themselves into a defense force when there are entities required by law to protect them from lawless elements? The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police are the entities authorized and required by law to give the people protection. They should be doing their job.

Nonly Barbers, proprietor of the Golden Society and founder of Rapsurian, is one of the leaders of civil society who are opposing the proposal to arm the people of the areas that are under state siege so-called "regular elements" of the MILF. He says that instead of ensuring peace, such a move would only worsen the conflict and violence in the area. It will result in a Philippine version of the United States' Wild, Wild West where almost every man carried a gun and disputes were settled with guns.

Declared as urging that a total gun ban be enforced in Mindanao, and indeed in the entire country, by the police and the armed forces. Only policemen and other law enforcement agents and soldiers on duty would be allowed to carry firearms. The presumption then would be that other people possessing firearms are not authorized to do so and they could be challenged and their guns confiscated.

The guns confiscated in the course of the enforcement of a total gun ban should be accounted for to the inventory, kept securely under lock and key and then melted down in a public event, to be transformed later into the proverbial plowshares.

Media bias

MEDIA LEADERS DID SOME SELF-EXAMINATION of their role in reporting the so-called "Mindanao problem" in Mindanao 5.2 in Tagaytay City over the weekend.

One observation made (which is actually not new) was that the media tend to focus on the bad at expense news about Mindanao, and to underplay the good or the positive news. It was said that very often, the choice is made based on what the market (the audience, the readers) want. Conflict and violence are "sexy" and sell, whereas peace and development are not, and they rarely sell newspapers or radio and TV programs.

But positive and good news will also sell if they can be made to interesting, so attractive and so readable as to grab the attention of readers. The business has been able to do this. Every day, the business makes a deliberate effort to publish at least one positive story on Page 1. About 70 to 80 percent of the front page of the business's Sunday issue is composed of positive stories.

A similar approach could be adopted to "sell" positive stories about Mindanao, and to show that good things are happening on the island, and not just fighting, conflict and violence.

Another observation made was that very often, the reporting is not balanced and is skewed in favor of the Christian viewpoint. This could be due to the usual prejudices and biases, not only of reporters but also of editors. In fact, the prejudices have their roots in lack of information or, in some cases, just plain ignorance. This could be corrected by having periodic short-term exchanges of personnel in Mindanao and Metro Manila. Journalists also have to be given additional training, including education on the history and culture of Mindanao, so that they can report the developments there intelligently and in depth.

The journalists covering Mindanao will also have to work double time to be able to handle the swift recovery and concealment of information that the Arroyo administration has put up to keep information on matters of public interest away from them and from the people. In the particular case of the current conflict, they will have to dig sources other than the government and rebel spokesperson to get the complete picture.

Journalists have to put current developments in historical context, and cite a list of research and analysts to be able to give in-depth reports to the newspaper readers and the radio-TV audience.

Intelligence, acumen and this reporting should keep the people better informed about what is happening in Mindanao.

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor-in-Chief LETTY JANE J. MANGAOIL
Managing Editor JOSE NIC D. NICANOR
Assistant Editors ARMANDO E. LLAMZON
Associate Editor for Standards RINALDO M. QUICK, JUNE
Opinion Editor JOSEF F. ANTOC
News Editor NONOY E. ESPINA JR. — Chief Page Five Operations PAUL E. PIAMONTE
Chief News Copy Desk ROSA G. AGAOAOMA
Assistant Editors FERDINAND B. BOMASANG JR.
Senior Desk Editor JOSE N. SARMIENTO JR.
Editorial Cartoonist ANSELMO ZAMORA
Chief Photographer DANILO U. SANTIAGO
Art & Design Director JOSEPH S. VILLANUEVA

Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer MARIXI R. PRIETO
President ALEJANDRO PADUA ANDRADE
Senior Vice President for Editorial Development ROSARIO S. BONOAN
VP for Advertising JULIE G. OJEDA
AVP for Circulation SUSAN CHING-E. TAN

Lurid trade

VIEWPOINT

Jaro I. Mercado

AN OLDIE (DERIVATION UNSEEN) THESE policemen sir bajo tanto (Tuan Ryang pigeons). And the local version of this Bicolano chat is a literal translation: *Inalagang mabuhu ang tigaal.* But scholarly journals prefer COMfor computerized articles.

In a globalizing world, more people are compelled to migrate into borders or skies looking, says the ILO Multi-Department. Its annual "Trafficking Persons Report" gives insights into this illicit trade within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Trafficking in persons is not limited to the usual suspects in Malaysia, Singapore and South Africa. Many Malaysians were shipped to Macau, Hong Kong and Australia. Burmese are exploited in Bangladesh and even Pakistan. Vietnamese are used up in Hong Kong, Thailand and the Czech Republic. Indonesians rank anywhere and the Middle East.

Estimates vary about 100,000 Indonesian women and children are trafficked annually for commercial sexual exploitation. There are of 10 Burmese prostitutes confirmed to be below 18.

Burmese children are trafficked or forced labor, child soldiers or even beggars in Thailand. Many Rachin women and girls peddled to China were forced into prostitution.

Hanoi estimates that 10 percent of that massive backward sum smuggled with Chinese men are trafficked brides. They're shipped to brothels in Hong Thida, An Giang and Ben Tre, Cambodia, are Vietnamese.

Thailand reduced internal trafficking of country women from the impoverished north and northeast. Still many are lured to Taiwan, Malaysia, the United States and the Middle East for labor and trafficking. They're trapped in servitude because of debts owed to the agents.

Less than 100 Malaysian women were trafficked abroad. But this declining number is deceived in Kuala Lumpur's lurid controversy over the 2006 murder of a Mongolian woman. Allegedly by her lover, who worked for Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak.

Female patrons constantly shift. A number of women and girls from Burma, Cambodia and Vietnam slip through Thailand's southern border to Malaysia on to Southeast in Johor Bahru to serve non-Singaporeans.

Burmese, Hmong, Lao and ethnic minority young women were Thailand to third countries such as Malaysia, Japan and destinations in Europe and North America.

An International Organization of Migration study in quite similar to the US study on the Philippines. Its first reported by Newspeak. (September 8-23/08.) Heavily half or 46 percent were between 18 and 24 years of age when they took off from Manila for Tokyo, the IOM's study said. Only 4 percent were professionals. A few (11 percent) had no inkling they could end up as strippers. Study surprises. Linked with passport points. "Technical" their end. Fifty-four out of a hundred carried false passports.

Corruption taints agencies. National Bureau of Investigation Department of Justice in Manila Lacsina for-port permanent assistant director cards for trafficking. Immigration police officials extort money from economic migrants and others leaving the country.

Legislation varies across Asia. As early as 1997, Thailand developed a Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Women and Children Act. In 2003, the Philippines went into the books a tough anti-trafficking law As-Sid Forum, which passed the Dalhousie on Prevention of Prostitution in reaction to a rich personal surge in trafficking cases.

Maria Ela Bautista-Lagman went through the ecstasies of legislation in 2005 as anti-persons trafficking law Anzio 2007, the Malaysian House of Representatives passed an anti-trafficking law.

But the blame need not is to scandalous. There does scale—and scandalous—divergences. The Philippines, for example, secured only three convictions in five years. "This is frustrating," they report says.

In 2006, there were no prosecutions of it of fathers in Malaysia. Neither were any Thai public officials or low-ranking officials actively complicit in trafficking.

The Burmese juries did not take action against soldiers, or civilian officials who engaged in forced labor. In fact, it changed "a conscription into grave crime of forced labor."

In a high profile case, Burmese convicted former British pop star Gary Glitter (a.k.a. Paul Francis Gadd) for sexual acts with minors in southern Vietnam. Hanoi has convicted 300 individuals convicted of trafficking in 2006, and some of them received the maximum sentence.

Singapore does not have clear-cut laws specific to trafficking. But it enforces other measures to prevent trafficking. In the first nine months of 2006, 25 employers were prosecuted and convicted for abusing their foreign domestic workers.

The report places the Japan on a little-noticed consequence of demographic change: the surge in the demand of Chinese men for wives. China's population policies have resulted in a skewed sex ratio where men outnumber women.

Russia is trafficking has other roots: poverty, little or no access to jobs, the consequences of trafficking, etc. Because of its relative affluence. Thailand's Eastern Sub-Mekong Region is a magnet for migrants who dip through difficult-to-police but broken-down countries.

More trafficked women and migrant workers are unable to find jobs where they want to in the Philippines. They seek to migrate again.

"A country that exploits factory-will send its daughters to the hot whorehouses here and abroad," a San Sur commentary notes. "Yet, many protestors, as compassionate source readers, still curse the kingdom ahead of the traffickers."

E-mail: jaarimercado@gmail.com

But of course peace

THERE'S THE RUB

Gemmalo de Quevedo

ARE YOU FOR WAR OR PEACE?

Someone asked me that question recently in his or her e-mail. It's indeed a question, but it is part of the guile of the regime that it has managed to reduce the problem to it. With each of some cast (at the side of pursuit of peace) to against people like Bong and profit) much all of the regime's critics as warmongers. He used that to justify his refusal to give a damn's resolutions to the sweeping of rogue commanders. Bravo and Kato and called for an all-out war against the MILF. So would he listen we get stop-war solidity, basically that picking.

He declared the rightist "several" threats there is a "state of war" in someone who has pummeled for brains. Kinder Rosary used more polite language to express her disagreement with the talk, but that was probably the reason she had to unsatisfied. But while at it, what to the closing working at the fourth out of six to muddle money offensive which meeting. The mantra that this problem can be solved only within the framework of Philippine sovereignty? The lady don't pretend to vouch.

But the questions to People's raiders authentic are those we have to say, "good," ergo together when you're not doing. Note doing the right. Take it from his ostensible debacle, Moros Liberage and how brave Emile, who kept quipping the Edsa 3 crowd to regret, urged Hidden doing. Outbreak who died easy before you know it. Arroyo—since had Hidden cause to complain?

What makes the question "are you for war or peace?" stupid is that if you answer war, you get a resounding echo the ranks of Erap and Mayor Pidal, while if you answer peace, you get categorized to the ranks of GMA and Hermogenes Esperon. (It's always Esperon first, from Moros Bato Erap and others. GMA and others are not waging peace, they are forging war.

Instead I cannot be for war or to be Edsa3 how suddenly means the word "peace" smashes to value of the government for just done. This is the only path? Is peace the for most sensible for to use. This is the only call for the lasting closure of arms that has led to why being waived upon this is the only final solution to the Moro question that has suspended wounds and relentless casualties to the Moro question. This is the only campaign for removing differences that has led to people who had previously coexisted with each other without blood to the point where they only hate and DIE, now looking at each other with distrust and security. Hence the only call for appreciating the pronouncement and failure of life that has led to the massacre of the innocents, to people gathering their passions, if more bombings and flowing for dear life.

George Orwell had a term for it "Newspeak." It is a language where the twine means the opposite of what they say. The government of "Edsa" has a Department of Peace, so it has to human war.

When he/she/it has power? But for power to happen in Mindanao—and elsewhere—two conditions must be met. Those conditions follow from the fundamental premises of any peace initiatives or process, which are principle and good faith. You cannot have peace that is not based on principle, and you cannot have peace that does not rest on good faith.

The first condition is to unpeach the current occupant of Malacañang for treason. It is not that a Bolgarian or discredited may not be given. It is that it is not Mindanao. The GMA Treaty not against the Philippine Constitution—they're so. Based to use it is of unpeach the point talks way back to Cory's time—but the government could. That is its reason for being. But it is the fundamental principle upon which it rests.

The second condition is to all units of transfer the United States and Spain scattered in to with them to unity but the government could about to buy-cost. "But it still stay well, but those are scattered means which have been superseded by Independence." The 1900 case quite predictably initiate Mindanao up to Jolo as part of Philippine territory. GMA could in her very well have added, "Certainly they have been superseded by the Independence we fathers declared, which is June 12, 1898 and not July 4, 1946."

The third, the 300 year history of Bangsamoro homeland without the permission of those who owned it, who are the people of the Philippines. That is a betrayal of the Constitution. That is treason.

The fourth condition is as to remove GMA from the equation. As Mindanao Autonomy Lefkowitz and the other religious involved in the bridge-makers dialogue have a point: let us throw good faith. That is impossible under that present regime. That is impossible under GMA. That is a pretense that rests of bad faith. For it is a leader that says one thing and does another. It gives rise to an area that the MILF first hired Rome and Kuala to initiate before we resume peace talks, we say they insist that we first put GRP and Esperon behind their before we resume peace talks.

We all mean war or talk peace. By all means, let us. Christians and Muslims, Indios and Moros, investors and friends, sit down and just, just, rather than resent our and win war. But let us do so without Nonsey and the Malacañang, all hear Bravo and Kato, without GMA and Esperon. That is the only way we can have a chance for peace and not to war. When these talks are not weighed down by the baggage of foreign powers—seeing the "Bangsamoro homeland" as their private enclave of rogue commanders who have seen too many TV crimes trying to make Mr. Bato a hero, and of Erap's regime serving business and land-license-broking dealmaker being only too heedful not to step in power. That's the kind of baggage that, like crimes, one has murdered bodies to the bottom of the Pasig River, never to see light of day again.

But of course peace is not as simple and not like the P200 bill, which everyone considers twice, if not take.

Kaya Natin rejects recall move vs Panlilio

A MONTH AGO A MOVEMENT CALLED KAYA NATIN! A Movement for Genuine Change and Effective Leadership was launched by Non-local officials-Secretary Oscar Palmos of Isabela (the town's former Mayor), Assessor for government services and Ed Bonifacio of Pampanga, and Mayors Jesse Robredo (another Bicolano) of Naga City, Leni Robredo and Jesse Mercado of Iloilo City, Marvin Rillo, in the platform of ethical leadership, good governance, transparency, social accountability and educational reforms. Cecile Alvarez and I interviewed Palmos and other people's ideologue, Ramon Reb of the Ateneo School of Government, on our GMA program last Sunday, and they stressed they are hopeful of encouraging young people with integrity to run for elections and join governments to the just extent that they can. Palmos and Reb have been working on this since, talking to students and like-minded local officials who believe in good governance, among them Isabel mayoralty bet Josel Magalong of Baguio.

But Kaya Natin may already have met a big challenge. Yesterday the founding members threw their support for the embattled Pueblo, who faces a recall movement from his political opponents in Pampanga. The fight between the mayor, who is also vying to be governor, and Jerry Delson of Candaba, has escalated, but the perception is that the quarrel is over quarry fee collections. Delson's camp claims that P60 million was collected by the provincial treasurer's office in quarry fees in 2007-2008, whereas in 2006, when Mark Lapid was governor, the capital only collected P19.3 million. Even what I have some reasons are smarting from the fact that where before there was no threshold up to which quarry fees could be collected, now there is a ceiling.

What I like about the statement of Kaya Natin is that it does not play blind to the difficulties encountered by the new generation politicians, such as the unethical issue of shifting party workers, and calls for the resignation of his provincial administrators from civil society members, church and business groups and even some of his former supporters. But Kaya Natin reminded that these issues should be resolved, instead of resorting to recall, which will only polarize the various forces in Pampanga. It's founders knows that full support behind Pueblo, stressing that he is still the best person to govern the province in an effective and ethical manner. Even Kaya Natin's spokesperson, former Gov. Ed Panlilio, left a chance to thank his local and continue the reforms he has begun, reasoning that reforms do not come easy. But they also prodded him to continue his dialogue with the disgruntled elements, and urge officials in Pueblo's coalition should agree that the welfare is the people.

It's a truism that the strength of a democracy lies in stimulating debates on contentious issues, but it's also very much needed to remember that as the debates ensue, much of the opinions peddled as truth is bound to be off-track. We have only to look at what is being said about the Bicameral-ness of Agreement on Increased Tariffs between the Philippines and the European Court to realize this. Nowadays the only self-evident truth is that the peace process is going to be between and tough.

I was reminded of this last Friday night as I chatted with Ateneo professors Edmundo Fernandez-during the wake for former Ateneo rector Alberto Pedroso, Sr. a colonel. Fernandez was the side of Gonzalo Siebert, President Ramon Magsaysay should negotiate with the MNLF in the late 1950's, and two decades later he was the chief peace negotiator of the Ramos administration with the MNLF. So he has the advantage of seeing up close the peace processes, which he described as fraught with difficulties and frustrations.

Ramos recalled how Marcos contracted the MNLF by giving all kinds of concessions in the draft peace agreement, but in the end he directed no hesitate over the phone to Libya one paragraph at the top-level. That ended the Marcos's positive agreement before constitutional processes.

Ramos also talked of the peace negotiations with the MILF in the Ramos years that took 46 rounds of journeying back and forth to Jakarta, where the talks were held in the house of Indonesian's self-effacing chairman of the Islamic Conference. He recalled that the MNLF needed to debate in the proposed Bangsamoro homeland Regions IX and X, plus Davao City and Palawan, to which the MILF agreed, but only after the sensitive issue of the withdrawal of MNLF forces into the AFP. Ramos recalled how Defense Secretary Renato de Villa insisted that he would never agree to getting 20,000 of them into the AFP—until Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza reminded him that MNLF fighters. PVR, who was also at the wake, confirmed the truth of his cry. Today the peace process with the MILF is holding up and its prospects successfully integrated.

The lesson is to stretch our collective patience and give peace a chance, and provide constructive criticism to the peace process, thus as the talks. I respect Senator Speaker Jose de Venecia's opposition to the Philippine-Japan free trade agreement (JPEPA) pushed through for the 1998 peace agreement with the MNLF is there to let. Ideas to move the 2008 negotiations with the MILF—despite his oppositionist stance vis-a-vis Arroyo. I met PVR's prospective ambassador Marshall Plan type of development and for him. This area in Mindanao. I also note that PVR hasn't weighed in on recent developments. Let's wish for peace, as an efficient configuration of the Mindanao Peace Talks, and the Marcos and Estrada years would with result in more Philippine lives lost. It's good to remember that at the height of the Mindanao conflict during the Marcos era, the AFP had 40 battalions in Jolo but this didn't end the conflict.

Postscript to the Olympics

THAT WAS A SPECTACULAR BABY THAT CHINA threw at the closing of the Olympics. Having missed half the opening ceremonies, I was determined to watch the TV coverage of the closing ceremonies, though four hours of interminable commercials (even when we were able to catch portions of that clutched the show's length to four hours).

The only disappointment in the grand show was our failure to catch a glimpse of the Philippine flag carried, as was its due, by swimmer Miguel Molina. Molina was the only one of the 11 Filipino athletes who made it to the finals (Hidilyn Diaz and Jean Marie Marquez, even if, by amateur boxing rules, Paeyano was ineligible to compete in the Olympics). I took this to mean that to our gamers, the Olympics is not the end-all and be-all of athletic competition. Or that the country's modest athletic popularity with the masses meant more than those lost by sports and the spirit of amateurism, which means doing things out of love.

Still, even if the TV cameras failed to give Filipino athletes their due, the Olympics was one of the athletes who stood behind despite the disappointing performance of our delegation, it was difficult to avoid getting caught up in Olympic fever. Never mind that we had yet again failed to cross even a single gold medal in the Olympics. Never mind that athletes from smaller and even poorer countries had managed to win at least one medal. Never mind that Michael Phelps, all by his lonesome, managed to garner more golds than our entire delegation managed to win in the past 100 years.

In the midst of the extravaganza, with flying confetti, a "dancing" team, Pseudo Domingo in a duel with a Chinese diva, and thousands of beautiful athletes spilling into the arena, their arms gleaming with the flags of their countries, getting caught up in the spirit of the moment, we believe that, despite the rough sports and brutality competition, world peace is at last at hand.

BUT amid the disappointment and repressed pounding of teeth over the Philippines' poor showing in Beijing, there were stories of consolation for the Filipino trying to find the good.

Some of the injuries in the Iraq include: Iraqi Ambassador Hon. Ghazali Aram; Ateneo Breast Cancer Coping With Cancer Treatments; When Cancer Returns; Ideas Bookstore Sale; Parenting During Cancer; Fertility in Young Women With Breast Cancer; Eating Right During and After Cancer Treatment; "Chemo Ideas" and Movement; Hearing Journey of Hope.

All day, there will be free consultations with doctors. Some screening and fasting blood tests are tests.

The event is hosted by Pinky Marquez. Other endorsers include Mariel Lara, Eddy de la Merced, Karen Davila, Marlene Fernandez, Thelma de Leon, Trish Macaraeg, Aida Ilarino, Rhoda Trinidad, Ida Arcilla-Lozada and Ces Drilon.

The Cardinal Sin Foundation invites that an honest answer pathway or survivor must go through cancer without hope, the support foundation and a circle of support from the oncology.

For pre-registration, contact: 0922.3430978 (Globe) 0921.8877843 (Handa) or online to ideasbooks@gmail.com. For online registration visit www.ideas.ph.net.

What's the Inquirer's agenda?

THEY MADE FOR RAPID READING: LETTERS from ordinary citizens or "observant readers," scoring the business of great fun. A post in Ang Mindanao blog summed up their point of view in a telling question: "What is the Philippine Daily Inquirer's agenda?"

Lawyer-actor Vicente Ombao of Pasig City wrote to complain about the newspaper's alleged bias against Court of Appeals Justice Ana Santos. I must confess that I am a little part-time. His pseudo-analysis of news, news columns and editorials and the Supreme Court investigation into the alleged bribery involving Court of Appeals justices seems to indicate that the Inquirer is obsessed to "cut down" Justice Santos. Ombao wrote: "But a newspaper, just like an observant reader can discern—a judicious spin," if one wishes to be judgmental—from its reporting. "I will explain why I had this kind of observation. Say Mr. Ombao was just a rabid columnist, and he thinks he is right all of the time and that the Inquirer is not perfect. It is penultimate.

In his letter published in the Inquirer's letters section on Aug. 23, he wrote: "Oddly enough, the Inquirer's style of reporting is not as objective as it is supposed to, oddly enough, the Inquirer editors and columnists seem to have predetermined that Justice Santos is the wrongdoer, oddly enough, most of the Inquirer editors and columnists are unwilling yet to believe Santos."

My response:

First, the idea that journalists should wait for the courts to pronounce judgment on an issue before venturing an opinion is deeply anathema to me. It may even appear to borrow words. I do not know whether Mr. Ombao is afraid to embrace the notion of "observant reader," but it seems to be what I am supposed to be. If I am not, I am a practicing journalist would still like to know his answer to the inevitable follow-up question: Should the Inquirer not have reported on the CA case given Santos the benefit of the doubt. That editorial concluded: "And yet it is [Santos] head of the Philippine Olympic Committee [as she] maintains, our athletes may not have "enough training, not enough facilities, their personal limits," and lose national and even regional records in their respective sports.

We have already seen many reports and editorials about the needed solutions to improve our sports programs. I am sure you will see the future a lot of exhibiting sports, even with our own Olympic history. But we need only remember children like Eunice and realize that if she can do it, we can, too.

"SILVER Linings," a homecoming for breast cancer survivors and survivors and medical forum on the disease, comes to Cebu on Saturday, Sept. 6, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dr. Ana Maria Regala, the second Silver Linings said he is at The Waterfront Hotel in Lahug. Registration fee is P100. The first 100 registered participants get free meals.

Some of the topics in the Iraq include: Living Cancer Free; Should I Have Breast Cancer Surgery; Dealing With Cancer Treatments; When Cancer Returns; Ideas Bookstore Sale; Parenting During Cancer; Fertility in Young Women With Breast Cancer; Eating Right During and After Cancer Treatment; "Chemo Ideas" and Movement; Hearing Journey of Hope.

All day, there will be free consultations with doctors. Some screening and fasting blood tests are tests.

The event is hosted by Pinky Marquez. Other endorsers include Mariel Lara, Eddy de la Merced, Karen Davila, Marlene Fernandez, Thelma de Leon, Trish Macaraeg, Aida Ilarino, Rhoda Trinidad, Ida Arcilla-Lozada and Ces Drilon.

The Cardinal Sin Foundation invites that an honest answer pathway or survivor must go through cancer without hope, the support foundation and a circle of support from the oncology.

For pre-registration, contact: 0922.3430978 (Globe) 0921.8877843 (Handa) or online to ideasbooks@gmail.com. For online registration visit www.ideas.ph.net.

Vocation, vacation

I BELONG TO A FAMILY OF EDUCATORS, BUT I NEVER thought of becoming a teacher. Both my parents teach in public schools. I have seen how committed they are to their work, but they are never properly compensated. For that reason, our resources are limited despite my parents' great passion. Still I was exciting to complain about for I was given everything I needed. They made sure of that.

I have relatives on both sides of the family who also took up teaching as their profession. Even my older sister planned to teach in a private school, but after she saw a CPA working abroad.

I never had the same desire. I had other dreams. I knew that there is a bigger world out there and I wanted to see it. I wanted to travel, to meet people, a lot of money to make. I was trained well how to be trained by Good-ness, both in academics and extra-curricular activities. I took up leadership roles, involved and facilitated activities, and participated in competitions.

The change of heart happened a few ago, in the third year of my college education. And, with the change of heart came the change of plans.

I was one of four youth representatives sent to our school, a Binini institution, to the Asian Model Youth Meeting in Taguig in last September 2007. The meeting's aim was to address how the problems faced by the youth in Asian will affect the emerging leaders in the future and the youth.

There, I got to know different personalities: Model delegates, lay people and young men and women from the different Model schools in our country and other parts of Asia. I would not try to put into words the other experiences. It's enough to say that it became the turning point of my life. It was then that I decided to pursue the teaching profession.

As an accountancy graduate, I was expected to have every graduate's dream: to become a CPA. But fulfilling that dream would have hindered my commitment to serve the Model community. Becoming a CPA would have meant going to Manila for review classes (my sister had actually enrolled me before she went abroad). And after passing the board examinations, it would not have been easy to return back home.

The path would have been laid out for me. I would work in a prestigious auditing firm in Makati. With my academic honors (I graduated magna cum laude), leadership awards and other citations, I would have been entitled to experience signing bonuses, a fat monthly salary, generous incentives and other perks. And prepare me for greater things. After two or three years of working in the firm, I would be qualified to work abroad and receive a monthly pay of $2000.00 or more, and if I disagreed from this path, I would be considered a fool.

I believed it would be much better to be considered a fool now than to be a fool in the end. I made my choice without any valid City, finishing a Bachelor of Model Democracy.

Many people have asked me why I chose this variation when I could have served my alma mater. Next Game of Indonesian University. I would have, if I had been given the same chance I was given here. But when I would have been needed during the interview, because they probably would never have seen me in the corporate world. Many of my fellow accountancy graduates chose to teach non-accounting subjects? Why couldn't she stay, when there was no need to leave?

I am tired of explaining over and over again. It does not matter much to me what subjects I teach for as long as I am teaching. I am not in the corporate world. I have failed many people, my teachers who protected me and understood the demands of campus leadership, my classmates who put up with me and lived food to understand my inconsistencies, my parents and siblings who had big dreams for me. I was supposed to be an inspiration to other students, someone who could be a role model, someone who could serve as a counterpart. But I did not finish splendidly in their eyes. To them, I have not been a good influence.

I may be considered selfish for doing only what I wanted. I will not argue against that. But hopefully, in the long run everyone will be proud of my own spirit.

I am hopeful. I am hopeful in pursuing in everything that I do. Every class session is a learning experience.

Life in BSMU is not the same as the one I was used to. I spent all my school life managing both academics and a host of extra-curricular commitments leading organizations, conducting seminars, and participating in seminars and joining competitions. Now, everything is simple. I prepare my lessons, finish my readings, and facilitate activities and discussions. I apply and share the learnings I get from my academic and extra-curricular activities when I was still studying. I motivate and inspire my students to do meaningful things and participate in school activities. I appreciate the simplicity of everything.

In a way, I am taking a vacation—a meaningful one. I am getting to know myself deeply.

I know that my responsibilities will be greater and more demanding in the future. But I am prepared. The past is not an issue. I can manage with a teacher's salary. But, I will not get rich in a monthly way but I can be rich in character and wisdom.

In the final analysis, what matters most is the happiness that I feel and the happiness that I share with others.

Zen Reina S. Pobre, 23, is a member of the faculty of the College of Business Administration of Notre Dame of Marbel University in Koronadal City.

Young Blood

Zen Reina S. Pobre

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their dreams? Their hopes? Their fears? Send your contributions from the twenty-something and below. —Ed.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS: Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, you're in or where you did go to. If you're a student, the person you're thinking and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

They Said

Segregation

"We are also for peace. We don't want the creation of our own Israel and Palestine, so we don't want segregate us. Christians and Muslims have been living in peace and harmony together in our city."

—Ambassador Ibnu Cania Ashegaf, meeting in the Archdiocese of the city on the proposed Bangsamoro state

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

LETTERS

Extend discounts for students, teachers

I AGREE WITH READER FRANCISCO BORJA, ("Students should be given free rein on all class days," Inquirer, 8/13/08) that students should only partially avail of discounts. They probably are not aware that:

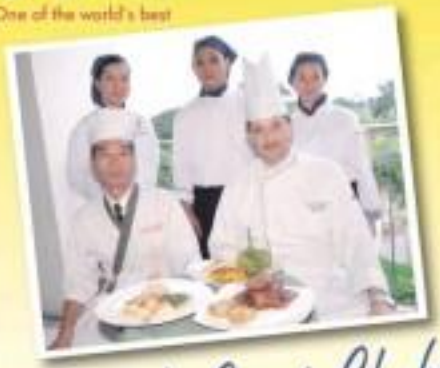
1. Some schools hold classes on Tuesdays through Saturdays, leaving Mondays as rest days. And I know of one state university that holds some special classes on Sundays for working, out-of-school and out-of-town students.

2. Many school activities and library research are done on the Internet and some school libraries are open on Sundays. Also, ROTC classes are usually held on Sundays, and some high schools have them on Saturdays.

The fare discount should even be extended to students.

—ELLEN ARIPE,
Iampil@hotmail.com

St. Luke's Medical Center
Quezon City
One of the world's best



St. Luke's Guest Chefs

PALMS COUNTRY CLUB

The Palms Country Club chefs will be our guests at St. Luke's Medical Center from August 25 to August 31, 2008. Executive Chef Hans Rudolf Neukom (seated, right) and his team, standing from left, Executive Sous Chef Rinna Corazon R. Sy, Sous Chefs Blair Sanogal and Ms. Elaine Gallardo and Japanese Chef Masao Nagasawa (seated, left) will prepare a very sumptuous weeklong lunch menu for patients and guests. They will also visit patients during the week.

For more information, please call the Food and Nutrition Department at (632) 723-0101 ext. 5512.

An International Affiliate of

US envoy urged to also set sights on Samar

IN THE PRESIDENT'S SOL'S ISSUE, IT WAS reported that US Ambassador Kristie Kenney was to announce additional $5 development assistance for Mindanao to the tune of $25 million, had the signing of the memorandum of agreement on assisted domain/MOA-AD between the government and MILF taken place. Although the good ambassador denied this, she acknowledged her visit to the United States had already provided "a big development package for Mindanao, it was still looking at doing more."

In her own words, the United States is committed to help make Mindanao "more peaceful and more prosperous."

May I ask the US ambassador to also set her sights on the province of Samar, the third largest island in the country and yet one of the most impoverished regions because of government neglect.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, in her recent trips to the Eastern Visayas region, made a brief stop in the city of Calbayog but no "package" was promised for the development of the city and its neighboring cities and municipalities.

A chunk of the money from the development package promised by Ambassador Kenney for Mindanao, if shared with Samar island, will be a big boost to Samar's economic development initiatives. It would generate livelihood opportunities for the Samareños who are now reeling from the effects of high inflation.

Samar is very rich in natural resources. Given the needed assistance, it could develop these resources and it could be a haven for foreign investors. In this direction, ambassador Kenney, one of the best US ambassadors to the Philippines, can count on the full cooperation

—JUN M. CAMBALIZA,
Calbayog City, Western Samar,
emcambaliza@pldt.com.ph

Why pills, injectables, IUDs are abortifacient

WE ARE A GROUP OF NURSES, ALL PRO-LIFE. Some of us are private medical practitioners—all faithful supporters of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' stand against artificial contraception. We would like to express our support to the CBCP not by starting another debate but by enlightening readers (and, we hope, our legislators as well, regarding this hot topic, from a theoretical standpoint.

Oral contraceptives (more commonly known as pills), hormonal injectables and Intrauterine Devices (IUDs) are all artificial contraceptives. Unfortunately, most people are not aware that they are, indeed, abortifacient. A review of the various literatures on these contraceptives will show that each of them have an efficacy rate that is less than 100 percent because fertilization (the meeting of egg cell and sperm cell) takes place before conception is not absolutely prevented.

By increase, the IUD does not prevent ovulation and so fertilization may occur several times in the span of time the device is in the womb of the woman. However, most of the times will not be able to implant themselves because there is an "appliance" in the womb that prevents them from doing so. This is why the IUD is abortifacient.

In the case of the pill, ovulation and fertilization are still carried out but implantation is our practice. We have seen patients with abnormal bleeding and positive pregnancy test despite their taking the pill, which proves that fertilization had indeed occurred. Unfortunately, the pill...combine oral, patch or injectable—renders the uterus hostile to implantation. And this is what makes it abortifacient.

Some people pushing for the reproductive health bill/law seem to want to believe that life begins at implantation. But even if we all go back to our Biology in high school, life truly begins at fertilization. Catholic or not, should we not all protect life from the beginning to its very end?

—VIRGINIA A. ARANES, M.D.,
LIBOR SANCHEZ, MINA BETH B. ATTEL,
ROSE L. DOMINGUEZ, EDEN B. OCAMPO
AND 4 OTHER SIGNATORIES

MEDICard Philippines
San Beda College Alabang
Contract Signing

SAN BEDA COLLEGE ALABANG recently signed its corporate healthcare agreement with MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC. (Standing, 4th from left) Dr. Ma. Lourdes A. Bautista (Academic Director), Rev. Father Atty. Fr. Narciso, OSB (Abbot – Chancellor) and OCSB Claretian Mrs. Perpet OSB (Rector/President) with MEDICard's Dr. Marilyn D. Bernardo (President), Luis G. Montano (CFO & Services Manager) and Adrian Gabriele (Marketing Services Manager). (Standing L-R) San Beda's Leonilo B. Palabrica (HR Manager), Amelia P. de Jesus (Controller) and Allan P. Sarandac (Admin Services Director) with MEDICard's Account Officers Irma de Guzman and Joel de Guzman.

Gov't studies plan to declare rogue MILF leaders as terrorists

By Nikko Dizon

DEFENSE SECRETARY GILBERTO Teodoro Jr. ordered said a thorough study was being conducted on the possibility of declaring recalcitrant members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) as terrorists.

"We are studying that possibility and I think the Anti-Terrorism Council and other agencies under this are studying that," Teodoro told a news conference in reply to a question on whether the government would tag renegade MILF commanders as terrorists.

Asked how handling the MILF a terrorist group would impact on the government's peace talks with them, he said: "That remains to be seen."

"Tagging them as a terrorist group involves a very meticulous and arduous process which lies on the basis of identifiable evidences," he said. "That's a very specific process and we'll cross that bridge when we get there."

Senior Executive Assistant Paulo Benigno Aquino III, a former Senate blue ribbon committee chairman, said the Senate could look into the matter.

Teodoro said that as a "revolutionary organization," the MILF had the peace process as its "only solution ship" with the Philippine government. "Because this peace process, we don't have a relationship with the government," he said.

Teodoro said that recent measures against the rebellious group would not affect the peace process.

"What I am afraid is that the possibility of an outbreak of violence is very high on a situation like this," said Teodoro, referring to both sides in the hostilities.

"Please, spare civilians, the most affected in the conflict. Any violent explosion would send thousands of civilians fleeing. Where will this end?" he said.

"The town center is crowded, classes have been suspended," he said. "Our people need psychological intervention, please help us here."

He said what were heart-breaking were that those people had earlier been displaced by recent flooding in July. "They just barely returned home when ours broke out," he said.

The priest said relief agencies like the International Red Cross and MPF had already distributed food and food packs.

"But what is urgent now is for these people to return home. When? Only the government and the MILF know," he said.

Dr. Tetia Iabok, regional health chief, said health workers were working double time to prevent the outbreak of diseases until specific relocation areas are set.

Also yesterday, the military reported that a suspected MILF medical officer, identified as Badarudin Abdul, was arrested in Datu Piang over the weekend. He admitted treating wounded MILF fighters and was arrested after his medicine when he was captured. With a report from Nikko Dizon

A HEART ATTACK IS FATAL
BE READY IF IT STRIKES!
OXYLITE PORTABLE OXYGEN
• Handy and Portable
• Ideal for Portable
• Also Available: OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

UN agency raises concern on evacuees in South

By Cynthia D. Balana
and Alberto D. Fernandez

THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP) yesterday expressed apprehension over the growing number of people feared to flee their homes in war-torn areas of Mindanao.

Stephen Anderson, WFP country director, told reporters that the food-providing arm of the United Nations has distributed 725 tons of rice to some 25,000 families in North Cotabato, Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte.

He said 250 more tons of rice are being sent to the areas where the government was pursuing renegade commanders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front over the past two weeks following rebel attacks in civilian communities.

"The WFP remains concerned over the growing number of persons displaced by the violence," Anderson said. "Many of the affected population are women and children and we are concerned for their well-being."

The National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) yesterday said that fighting over the past three weeks had "affected" 272,000 persons who either fled their homes, suffered property damage or lost their livelihood.

The NDCC said 108,000 people or 23,000 families were staying in 229 evacuation centers in Mindanao.

Fr. Eliseo Ivip of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in the predominantly Muslim town of Datu Piang in Maguindanao appealed for emergency relief to avoid a humanitarian crisis.

Ivip said 15,000 people in 3,000 families had fled their homes and remained schools and other public places in Datu Piang since Wednesday after the military launched an air and ground assaults on MILF positions.

The priest, who is acting his overseer to shelter in evacuees, said evacuees' volunteers was urgently needed.

"What I am afraid is that the possibility of an outbreak of diseases is very high on a situation like this," said Ivip. He appealed to both sides to end hostilities.

"Please, spare civilians, the most affected in the conflict. Any violent explosion would send thousands of civilians fleeing. Where will this end?" Ivip said.

"The town center is crowded, classes have been suspended," he said. "Our people need psychological intervention, please help us here."

Ivip said what were heart-breaking were that those people had earlier been displaced by recent flooding in July. "They just barely returned home when ours broke out," he said.

The priest said relief agencies like the International Red Cross and MPF had already distributed food and food packs.

"But what is urgent now is for these people to return home. When? Only the government and the MILF know," he said.

Dr. Tetia Iabok, regional health chief, said health workers were working double time to prevent the outbreak of diseases until specific relocation areas are set.

Also yesterday, the military reported that a suspected MILF medical officer, identified as Badarudin Abdul, was arrested in Datu Piang over the weekend. He admitted treating wounded MILF fighters and was arrested after his medicine when he was captured. With a report from Nikko Dizon

PANASONIC
₱14,500
PABX
FREE INSTALLATION
FREE DEMO

'Lumad' want self-rule, too

From page A1

peoples in the country. A third of the 110 ethno-linguistic groups in the country are found in Mindanao.

Unified stand

The Davao City Mindanao-Palawan Indigenous Peoples' Consultation was called to consult the lumad leaders and come up with a unified position on the IGR.

Former North Cotabato Rep. Gregorio Andolana said there were enough basis for the indigenous peoples to ask for autonomy.

"The United Nations declaration and the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra) are enough basis for the 'lumad' to call for autonomy. Why not ask the congressmen or senators to pass a law creating the Lumad Autonomous Region," he said at the gathering.

Andolana said including the lumad in the mandated new autonomy discussion based on the framework of coming up with a final peace agreement between the MILF and the government would be another option, which he described as a "shorter route."

Besides the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), the proposed Bangsamoro homeland would include the municipalities of Baloi, Munai, Nunungan, Pantar, Tagoloan and Tangkal in Lanao del Norte; and hundreds of barangays in the provinces of Sultan Kudarat, Lanao del Norte and North Cotabato, which voted to become part of the ARMM in 2001.

The draft also provides for the inclusion of the Sangguniang's "ancestral domains" in Mindanao, Palawan and Sulu.

The proposed Bangsamoro homeland will be governed by the IGR, which will have authority to send trade missions to and enter into economic cooperation agreements with other countries provided it does not include aggression against the Philippine government.

Dozens from Christian communities in Mindanao and a temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court scuttled the signing of the controversial MOA this month, prompting the MILF to stage attacks on several towns in Mindanao and triggering countermeasures by government forces.

Lumad in IGR

Andolana said that indigenous peoples should be made the principal representatives in the IGR and not just their "mouth piece."

"The indigenous peoples are diminishing in Mindanao. It is their land that is being discussed here. Historically and legally, they have a big role in ancestral rights," Andolana said.

He said the MOA would have serious implications on the lives of 1997.

The Ipra gives the indigenous peoples the right to the land and their political rights. The IGR does not give due recognition to the ancestral domain claims of indigenous peoples with ties in Sulu," the lawyer-lawmaker said.

Lumad leaders also urged the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to fast-track the delineation of territories and the processing of applications for certificates of ancestral domain title (CADTs).

"The NCIP should help in lobby the government to include us in the review of the IGR and in all consultations as principal members. Otherwise what are they for?" Mandalangan said.

Even as only two years ago, the tribal leaders have insisted that if their ancestral territories were included in the IGR, they would not be able to pursue their political and economic life consistent with their culture and traditions.

They lamented the recommendation of their position in the Malaysia-brokered negotiations between the government and the MILF.

Lack of recognition

During the gathering of indigenous peoples in Davao City for the finale of Indigenous Peoples Address last month, the different tribes in Mindanao conveyed their clamor over the Sangguniang's exclusion in the territories.

In the State of the Indigenous Peoples's Address, they said the "for lack of recognition of our legitimate rights to our ancestral domains in the governmental MILF peace process is a denial of our existence."

This is a very "urgent concern," said the statement who included tribal leader Timuay Fernando Madisi, a Subanen; Bae Amel Gapayan, a Tagbanua; Bela Omporan Sambili Jr., a Higaonon/Talaandig; and Bernardo Limbod, a Manobo.

They stressed that important of finding a viable way, this time, for "ensuring that (these) voices will also be heard."

But beyond territorial questions, the lumad leaders also agreed to tackle equally important issues enhancing concerns.

Carl Cesar Bebiso of the nongovernment group Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRC), the secretariat of the meeting, said the lumad leaders identified, among others, seeking equitable socioeconomic arrangements that ensure peaceful coexistence with the Bangsamoro people.

This is very much true for the Subanen tribe, which lives within the ARMM, the two sons of the IGR.

Peaceful solution

The consensus could be morning was held "in the spirit of finding a peaceful solution to the issue."

The community representatives who participated in the meeting mostly came from the affected lumad territory identified under Categories A and B of the IGR area as stipulated in the MOA.

The participants included Subanen, Higaonon, Talaandig, Bagobo, Manobo, Ubo Manobo, Manobo Pulangiyen, Dulangan Manobo, Tboli-Tiruray, Magsaysay and Sultan Kudarat, Langkungan, Blaan, Tboli, Tagakaolo, Bagobo, Mansaka, Mamanwa, Tagbanua, Andaya, Manobo, Ata Manobo and Manguangan.

Human rights activists have reminded Mindanao a significant section for the indigenous peoples' struggle for recognition and self-determination. With a report from Ryan Rosario, Inquirer Mindanao

Hear more.
Sountex
INCA
STORAGE TANK SALE!!
FACTORY DIRECT
10-YEARS WARRANTY!!
PROMO PRICE
₱17,000.00

Tropical depression forming near Bicol

From page A1

country weather observer Boy Ilo, ringo said yesterday.

Central and southern Luzon, as well as Eastern Visayas, can expect heavy rain as the active low-pressure area looming near Bicol developing into a tropical depression, "Lawin," according to Gerongo.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the low-pressure area was embedded along the intertropical convergence zone and would affect central and southern Luzon, and the Visayas.

The agency warned residents in these areas to take precautionary measures in the rains might trigger flash floods and landslides.

"The low-pressure area is expected to develop into a tropical depression in the next 24 to 36 hours," Gerongo told the Inquirer by phone.

The weather disturbance, however, will only bring about cloudy skies and scattered rainshowers in Metro Manila.

In Albay, the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council has yet to take action into its close "rainfall monitoring," council executive secretary Cedric Jaime said.

The low-pressure area could still move north. Right now, it should not alarm the residents in our area," Deep said. He said evacuation to landslide-prone and coastal areas, and labor force was not yet necessary.

By noon yesterday, rains were reported to falling, but there was little to no rainfall.

Strong quake

Earlier, Deep said heavy rainfall may pose other risks to the province following a 5.3-magnitude earthquake felt in Legazpi City on Friday. Quake aftershocks occurred the following days.

Senior geologist Adrian Duque of the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences in Bicol had warned that heavy rains last could dislodge and unsteady boulders in mountainous areas, although no visible rock cracks or landslides were reported following the quakes. Reports from Jocelyn R. Uy in Bicol, Jr. and Alarissa T. Gatmil, Inquirer Southern Luzon

The GREAT PROJECTOR SALE
Aug 19 to 30, 2008
Panasonic
Panasonic
Canon

Across the NATION

Lanao folk grouping for self-defense

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Inquirer Mindanao

KOLAMBUGAN, LANAO DEL NORTE—A PERceived failure by government forces to provide enough law enforcement and security cover in the town has given birth to groups of civilians and militias who are taking into their hands the task of defending their communities as well as running after suspected Moro rebels or supporters.

This slide into vigilantism is also fueled by continuing jitters throughout the province of another offensive by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) forces to follow the Aug. 18 attack here and to flush other rebels to demonstrate their clout over the aborted signing of the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD).

On Aug. 21, at least 3,000 evacuees that remained in Minanga Dodomeal rallied back to Lanao del Norte, scores of families were marching for an Ozamiz-bound ferry at the Makiat port.

A member of them crying in exasperation covers before, they said they would be staying with relatives in Misamis Occidental "until after we are sure the rebels are already far away."

One government militia, who now acts on Monday, said he was no comfortable seeing only a few soldiers in the town.

He said he was bringing his family to stay with relatives in Ozamiz and he back in Kolambugan "to defend it against insurgent MILF attack."

Apart from debates, they were beginning to rearrange individuals and households in their village that they suspected to have hosted the rebels in their frontline days prior to the attack.

A number of Binaan (now Muslim) essentials related that a week prior to Monday's assault, there was a marked increase in the number of street peddlers of DVDs and CDs, as well as habal-habal (motorcycle) taxis plying routes from the town toward the hinterlands.

At about the same time, Manoan residents of the town also shared the same information about a threat of attack, that is why it was unbelievable for almost everybody that government forces were surprised by the assault and had not done anything to quell the MILF navigation.

The attack adds to the string of military intelligence failures by government troops which led to humiliating offensives by the Moro rebels in Lanao del Norte.

Two weeks before the occupation on March 17, 2000, of Kauswagan town, an intelligence report warned of a plan by the MILF's Lanao del Norte command to cluster the government troops through a lightning attack.

Large-scale massing of MILF troops were reported by residents of Inter-island tourist drive days before that incident.

Another incident when military intelligence failed was the April 2003 attempt to occupy Maigo town which led to fierce fighting and heavy civilian casualties.

The three deployments prior to this offensive resembled that described by Kolambugan residents prior to Monday's attack.

According to the government militia that formed part of an emerging vigilante group in Kolambugan, none of the individuals subject to their own investigation are Moroman, although it disclosures against "terrorist ones."

This climate is in his city from the fallout of the March 2000 occupation of Kauswagan town when Moroman residents in the Poblacion were harassed with the houses of many families burned. This forced them to flee.

At that time, being Moroman was equated to being MILF. Until the burning of the properties, barangay officials of Tinago in Ozamiz City considered the economics of Moroman villagers within a campus as the Kolambugan attack was ongoing.

Bikers seek pledges to revive forests

DAGUPO CITY—THREE HOUSTON bikers are asking pledges to help reforest the Cordillera, hoping to profit from an environment commitments that has been blocked by the mountain's worsening and rising off-peters.

Joseph Paul "JP" Alipio, an environmental activist, and his friends, Ben Mont and Dennis Germaine, vowed to bike through at least eight Benguet towns based on the value of pledges they get online or from coffee sales at a local cafe to raise a watershed seed fund.

Begun as an online pledging page in July, Alipio's "Pledge Bike to Bindo ng Kanli Global for the Seeds of the Cordillera!" was relaunched as a corporate fund-raising on Saturday.

"[We] will dedicate each kilometer that [we] will cover in 24 hours toward establishing a seedling bank/greenhouse now [town] in the many denuded areas of the mountains," said Alipio.

Donations

He said private donors can pledge P1 up to P1,000 for each kilometer the biker traverses.

"[The] number of seedlings will depend on how much money we will be able to raise, so I can't say at this moment how much seedlings we will be [set up]. Hopefully we can raise enough to plant a substantial number [of trees]," he said.

Bonnet may soon need the bikers seedlings, Alipio said.

Alipio also opened an exhibition of his nature photographs, hoping to garner 30 percent of its proceeds to the "Bindo" fund and to Cordillera Coffee's treatment fund to support coffee farmers in the region.

Alipio said the bikers have started training for the trek on Nov. 29.

"Much of the Cordillera's mountains have, in recent years, suffered severe deforestation from logging and other human [activities] that have slowly deteriorated the quality of the forests in the region," Alipio said in a letter sent earlier by e-mail.

"Many of these forests are important sources/beds and repositories of biological wealth that may be lost in time if the deforestation is not slowed," he said.

The bikers, he said, would pedal through mountain trails in the towns of La Trinidad, Tuba, Itogon, Sablan, Tublay, Baguio, Bokod, Kabayan and Bokod before returning to Baguio City.

"At the end of the 24-hour ride this coming November, the riders will tally the total distance than the team will be able to cover and that will be multiplied by the planted trees we have promised. You will be sent a notice of how much your seed pledge will be so you can officially donate the funds for the seedlings," Alipio said in his e-mailed letter.

Pledges may be directed to joeydyclist@gmail.com.

—Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Gov leads rescue mission in Kolambugan

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Inquirer Mindanao

WILLIAM Sachica, 14, shows off his bullet wound to other children at the Riverside Elementary High School in Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte. He lost his father and a cousin when the MILF rebels started their house on Aug. 18.

KOLAMBUGAN, LANAO DEL Norte—For Misamis Occidental Gov. Loreto Leo Ocampos, weekends and holidays are times to catch up on his diving.

In daybreak, he would be aboard a motorized outrigger cruising toward diving spots.

Aug. 18, which was a holiday, could have been a perfect day for a dive.

But Ocampos woke up in the caves of an attack by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Kolambugan town, just across Illegal Bay from Ozamiz City.

From Dangcagan City, the governor immediately motored to the fishing village of San Isidro in Ozamiz and organized a rescue mission for civilians caught amid the skirmishes.

Kolambugan and nearby Baloi town are about 30 minutes away from Ozamiz across the bay through a motorized outrigger.

After gathering scores of motorized outrigger owners, mostly fishfolk who volunteered for the mission, Ocampos then sailed with them toward the coastal communities.

The rescued outrigger that could have taken him to fishing spot that morning became the mission's "command ship."

As they left, Ocampos also sent word the other fishfolk in Cipatik, Bolilis and Bacabac town to join the mission. The provincial government provided fuel for the motorized outriggers.

A nine-skiff of Ozamiguin-cold police and military officials advised them not to get too close to Kolambugan's coasts as they might be within "firing range" of MILF forces.

That was why Ocampos, at the first sounds of the rescue mission in the morning, had to divert the evacuation operation from mid-sea.

The fishfolk from Misamis Occidental assisted as said are for evacuees aboard coast lapses from Kolambugan. The Misamis Fishfolk then brought them to Misamis Occidental, while the Kolambugan fishfolk took the coastal villages for awaiting evacuees.

By mid-morning, more policeforces were experienced as government troops attempted to flush out the Moro rebels occupying the town center, which is just a narrow strip of flatland amid a low mountain.

The command detachment was the battalion of Kolambugan's mayor, Bernard Lumagas called Gumayan, inspiring "Tau, please do not harm us!"

The side said Ocampos assured Lumagas that he was just around the mid-sea overseeing evacuation.

Around 3 p.m., an skirmish re-erupted with the withdrawal of MILF forces, Ocampos' "command ship" docked at the town port where Lumagas, feeling reassured, met him.

Ocampos surveyed the discovered town center, witnessing the fresh wounds inflicted physically mentally and rulers ally on Kolambugan.

At around the same time, Ocampos also requested a national floor of overland transport vehicles to ferry military troops from Lanao del Norte.

The troops were supposed to be brought into Ozamiz aboard a C-130 plane and then mobilized into the towns under siege by the MILF but the operation did not materialize.

From 7:30 a.m., Ocampos was "province of Pangul Bay," providing direction in the evacuation effort, lessening the events of rescuers.

"We are very thankful for the governor of Ozamiz," an elderly woman said as she stepped her evacuation boat.

Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral commended Ocampos for the evacuation effort.

A close side revealed that around seventeen Kolambugan mayor Bernard Lumagas called Gumayan, inspiring "Tau, please do not harm us!"

The side said Ocampos assured Lumagas that he was just around the mid-sea overseeing evacuation.

Around 3 p.m., an skirmish re-erupted with the withdrawal of MILF forces, Ocampos' "command ship" docked at the town port where Lumagas, feeling reassured, met him.

Ocampos surveyed the discovered town center, witnessing the fresh wounds inflicted physically mentally and rulers ally on Kolambugan.

5,000 bury murdered Capiz radioman

By Felipe V. Calleo
Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY, CAPIZ—ABOUT 5,000 persons attended the burial of slain Radio Mindanao Network-DyVR announcer Marcio D. Nonoy 12:30 p.m. Sunday at Maayon Cemetery here.

Several public officials, politicians, members of the media, relatives and friends of Roxas joined the funeral after the necrological services and Mass officiated by the Independent Filipino (Aglipay Church) at Maayon Civic Center.

The mediamen, relatives and friends of Nonoy wore black and white T-shirts with printed words "Stop Killing Journalists and Justice for Marcio Roxas."

One of two motorcycle-riding men shot and killed Roxas who was on his way home onboard his motorcycle along Bayot Drive, Roxas City last Aug. 7.

The suspects were arrested in nearby Iloilo town two hours after the incident.

Last week, the City Prosecutor's Office filed a murder case against Jomel Lachmoso, 27, of Barangay Cogon, Roxas City and Kristian Tan, 25, of Barangay Quezon, Maayon, Capiz. Four witnesses identified the two as the suspects in the shooting of Roxas.

Regional Trial Court Judge Edward Contreras of Branch 17 has set the arraignment of the murder case filed against Lachmoso and Tan on Sept. 2.

Lachmoso was arrested Wednesday in the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology in Barangay San Jose, Roxas City, while Tan remained at the Roxas City police station detention cell.

Panlilio open to dialogue with groups

By Jocelyn R. Uy

EXHAUSTED PAMPANGA GOV. Eddie Panlilio is opening his doors for a dialogue with civil society groups to settle problems and concerns to be fought off a recall movement launched by his political enemies.

"I may be stubborn when it comes to my convictions but I am a dialoguing person," Panlilio said during a press conference in Quezon City yesterday.

Speaking for the first time on the recall move by Kapampangan Kaisahan ang Mamalas Pampanga (or Gumibuat), Panlilio called on his constituents to stop "all mudslinging and dirt-motive existence" and move on to a "better, brighter, progressive and God-centered Pampanga."

Kaisahan launched a recall move against Panlilio, a Catholic priest who won against two political giants during the 2007 gubernatorial elections on a platform of moral crusade and good governance, on the ground of "loss of confidence" of the governor's leadership.

To meet the requirement of recall petition, the group, spearheaded by former board member Boyet Henson, must gather 100,000 signatures from registered voters in Pampanga.

Panlilio admitted that with the group's negative political influence and funding, gathering such number of signatures was not impossible.

"[But] all the issues [it] raised are baseless, therefore, invalid. The civil society groups are one with me in pushing for a campaign for good governance and reasonable citizenship," Panlilio said recalling from a prepared statement.

"I may have [differences] with some civil society groups ... to settle these [misdeeds and issues], I am more than willing to hold a dialogue with them to find out the concerned cause and place," he continued.

Talks about a recall move against him was nothing new, he said. As early as December last year, he has been warned of being toppled by rumors of drug lords—coconut, cocaine and recognizers, he narrated.

"The measure is still pending at the Supreme Court. I received 2007 on requires in out of the question. What remains now is a recall move," he said.

But he was keen in saying that he would finish his term until 2010.

Showing support in the once-plus government official were "Kapa Sakla" Movement and the Pampanga-based civil society group Kapanyapangan Mamingal Inc.

The newly launched movement said the attempt to recall Panlilio was politically motivated and urged the people not to support the recall initiative.

"We ask the Kapampangans to give Governor Panlilio a chance to fully serve his term and continue the reforms that he has begun," said Harvey Bolo, one of the leaders of Kapa Sakla movement, reading a statement in behalf of the group.

The statement was signed by Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca, Bulacan Gov. Teofilo Baguilat Jr., Sagay City Mayor Jose Bolanio and San Isidro, Nueva Ecija Mayor Sonny Mallari.

The group advised Panlilio to listen to his people.

NPA rebels free Manero brother after public apology

By Jeffrey Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—COMMUNIST rebels freed human Satoy Sgt. Jose Manero, a brother of priest killer Norberto Manero, after he allegedly admitted guilt and publicly apologized for "crimes and serious violations of human rights he committed against the people and the revolutionary movement."

The Mindanao Aror Command of the New People's Army (NPA) said in a news statement in Bukidnon, that Manero was given "conditional amnesty" but did not state what his "fate" were.

It said Manero committed the crimes when he was still in active military service as detachment commander in central areas in the city.

The rebels seized Manero and took him hostage on May 11 while he was serving as a member of the security unit to a mining owned by the Lumayo family in Calinan District.

Fr Pete Limana of the St. Mary's parish in Buhangin District said in a phone interview that Manero was turned over to his family at around 10:30 p.m. on Sunday. He said he was with another priest, Fr. Jerry Gratela of the St. James Parish in Bunawan District.

"He appeared in good health," Limana said of Manero. "When he arrived at his home, he knelt and prayed in front of an image of the Our Lady [Mama Mary]."

Terms

The NPA said that as part of his terms for release, Manero promised "not to undertake any act that would harm the people, cause damage to their lives and livelihood, and violate basic human rights, especially to workers and peasants."

Another condition was for him to desist from engaging in armed and other "hostile actions" against the NPA.

Maj. Armand Rico, spokesperson of the Eastern Mindanao Command, said the military was still trying to contact Manero as it could determine the details of his release.

"He needs to undergo emotional debriefing but does not cannot do now because we just can-can with him," Rico said.

Manero's son, Jeffrey said the family is grateful to see him appear on Sunday night. "We did not have the slightest idea that he would be released."

"Waiting for his release was really agonizing, not seeing him personally well and exhausted in a big cider for all of us ... We could not do anything. Prayers helped us through this ordeal as we are thankful for his capture for our hunting him," Jeffrey said.

"We are thankful that he's finally with us and we are more thankful that he was treated well," he added.

Jeffrey said his father went to the hospital for a medical checkup.

Ground, air strikes killed 125 ...

From page A1

fulltimer Gudmico, 60, and Arnold Unap, 47; and a certain Indig.

Wounded were Rahyab Abdulsikkian, 7 months; Unap Pecak, 12; and Hersida Dimorilang, 13.

Lt. Col. Juliete Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said 23 MILF fighters were killed during Sunday's air and ground assaults in Maguindanao, bringing to 125 the death toll on the enemy side since the military began its offensive in the area last week.

Ando said the toll was based on intercepted MILF radio conversations. He said the military suffered four dead and 19 wounded in encounters in Shariff Aguak, Datu Piang and Mamasapano.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said MILF fatalities included seven in fac

Col. Marino Galman, 601st Brigade commander based in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, reported no major military offensives yesterday after Sunday's daylong artillery barrages and air strikes against suspected MILF positions.

"The rebels are reeling so, but we are looking for them. There was no major incident that transpired," Galman said.

Gov't casualties minimal

Gen. Alexander Yano, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said at a press conference yesterday that his troops were closing in on Ameril Umbra Kato and Abdullo Macapaar, alias Commander Bravo.

The two MILF commanders have been blamed for atrocities in North Cotabato, Lanao del Sur, Davao del Sur, Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao that have left 17 soldiers, five militiamen and 42 civilians dead since Aug. 19, according to the military. It said 64 soldiers and 2 militiamen were wounded.

"Considering the scale of the operations, the casualty rates on the government side is very minimal," Yano said.

MILF leaders said Kato and Macapaar were on a campaign after the signing of a memorandum of agreement on an expanded Bangsamoro homeland was scrolled on Aug. 5 in Malaysia. The two commanders account for 500-1,000 fighters of the 12,000-strong MILF.

Local officials in Mindanao pressured the withdrawal of troops under their jurisdiction in the proposed Moro ancestral domain, forcing the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order.

Base commands overrun

"What is very significant is that our government troops have caught up with all the base commands or the groups responsible for the various atrocities in the last few days," Yano said in a joint press conference with Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. at Camp Aguinaldo.

Yano said that since Sunday morning, government troops had been engaged in five encounters in Lanao del Norte and another encounter yesterday in Matanogsog in Maguindanao.

Also in Manila, the Philippine Air Force yesterday said it had bolstered security of its fleet in Mindanao after it received reports that the MILF was planning to attack bases there.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said the government was looking into reports that the communist New People's Army was helping finance MILF attacks in Mindanao.

Sen. Gen. Jorge Segovia, AFP spokesperson on the Central Mindanao conflict, said there had been reports of sightings of Kato and Bravo but refrained from giving details, citing "operational security."

Yano said that since Aug. 20, the military had destroyed 13 MILF "satellite" camps and communities in North Cotabato and Maguindanao where the rebels had sought refuge during encounters.

Populated by survivors

"We have to take note that the camps that they are operating to set not the conventional camps that we know of in the military. These are communities that are populated by the survivor families of the fighters," Yano said.

He said the camps had fortifications, barricades, trenches and bunkers. "These are not ordinary civilian barangays or communities but they are converted into fortresses in terms of military operations," he said.

Camp Victoria

Camp Victoria in Maguindanao was the "most significant" among those captured by the military, Segovia said, with the operation ending on Wednesday.

Gen. Jorge Segovia, AFP spokesperson on the Central Mindanao conflict, said there had been reports of sightings of Kato and Bravo but refrained from giving details, citing "operational security."

Yano said that since Aug. 20, the military had destroyed 13 MILF "satellite" camps and communities in North Cotabato and Maguindanao where the rebels had sought refuge during encounters.

Populated by survivors

"We have to take note that the camps that they are operating to set not the conventional camps that we know of in the military. These are communities that are populated by the survivor families of the fighters," Yano said.

He said the camps had fortifications, barricades, trenches and bunkers. "These are not ordinary civilian barangays or communities but they are converted into fortresses in terms of military operations," he said.

Camp Victoria

Camp Victoria in Maguindanao was the "most significant" among those captured by the military, Segovia said, with the operation ending on Wednesday.

Abdul Wahid Yamlak, Jived. There were also installations in the camp for military purposes and had an obstacle course, a watch tower and airport portion.

On Sunday, troops from the 73rd Infantry Battalion under Army Lt. Col. Alexander Arias seized overrun a smaller post of the MILF's Camp Bushir in Sitio Gawaidan, Barangay Dalikan, Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, the AFP Eastern Mindanao Command said. PHOTO reports from Celestina D. Avendaño in Barra Quinamoayan in Manila and Jeoffrey Maitem, Ariel B. Medalone and Rikel U. Umol, Inquirer Mindanao

2 war widows call for end to bloodshed

From page A1

Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels in Basilan. He was buried on Saturday.

Marie Flora or "Cookie" lost her husband, Lt. Col. Angel Montes, 46, on Aug. 18 when he and his men were ambushed and trapped by MILF rebels in Lanao del Norte. He was the highest-ranking soldier killed by Moro rebels since 2000.

"I lost a husband. My children lost a father. You can never family should have a loved one," Cookie said the heaviest yesterday just before President Macapagal-Arroyo came to visit the wake of her husband as the family residence in Barangay Tabuc Suba in Jolo, Sulu.

"I hope the war will stop. I don't know if and how it will," Daisy said in a separate interview before the two widows met the President.

'Justice must be served'

But Cookie said justice should be served in connection with her husband's death and those responsible must be punished.

"A flame not extinguished is yet. It's still painful," said Daisy, an elementary school teacher from Tayabas town in Pulawan.

"I do not want to soften to quite! farmer. I need to be strong for my children," Cookie said.

Ms. Arroyo arrived at around 10 a.m. and met with the families of the slain soldiers for nearly an hour.

She was accompanied by top officials and military leaders, including Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and his son and namesake (Rep. Raul Gonzalez Jr., Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado, Navy Vice Adm. Jesus Millan and Army chief Lt. Gen. Victor Ermita.

The coming here and meeting with us, she gave importance to (the sacrifice of my husband," Daisy said.

She was surprised when I was told that she would be coming because other top officials already came here. This showed that she respected my husband and honored his sacrifice," Cookie said.

Financial assistance

Secretary Gonzalez said the President gave "substantial" financial assistance to the families although he did not know how much it was.

The justice secretary said in a phone interview that Ms Arroyo assured Montes's family that the call (for killings) would be given "full legal assistance."

Montes, the eldest of four children, became the family breadwinner after his father, a laborer, died years back. His mother, Sonia, is a barangay health worker earning less than P2,000 per month.

Sonia said in an interview before the family left to wake the President, that they would also ask for help in the education of Anne Grace, who has been blind since birth.

Cookie said the President assured her that the government would support the education of her three children, aged 8 to 15, until they could finish college.

Ms Arroyo will order the immediate release of benefits and other assistance to the families, Secretary Gonzalez said.

The widows said they hoped they could move on soon.

Daisy said she would pursue her plan to build a house on a 194-square meter lot in Bulacan. She vowed not to abandon her husband's mother and siblings.

Cookie said her three sons had wanted to continue the legacy of their father. "It's a must, Mama, that we enter the Philippine Military Academy. I will not make its perpetual of us," they told her.

Although she was against their plan, Cookie said she would respect the feelings of her children.

'To get to the mastermind, you must follow the money'

From page A1

or the triggerman, and work backward. Or, start with Constable Rogelio Moreno, whom the bodyguards had identified as the assassin. Moreno was directly behind Aquino as he was led down the airport's service entry leading to the tarmac when the shooting occurred.

Keep scrutinizing the scenario one level up. Find nearly the layers, and you'll find something there.

Among top military officers in the 1970s and 1980s, the name Ildefonso "Danding" Cojuangco was synonymous with "money."

Even the former Northeast Marcos would endorse Cojuangco to any officer who needed help. Marcos only wanted two things: The officers must fully disclose his problems; and the solutions to be taken must be legal.

As a lawyer and a seasoned legislator, Marcos was a stickler for legal procedures. It had to be legally right, even if not morally sound.

A Constabulary officer charged with illegal detention was asked by Marcos what occurred to his victim. When telling his side of the incident, Marcos told him: "Tell Danding to get you the best lawyer."

The officer went to Cojuangco, who then hired one of the high-profile lawyers in Manila. The officer was acquitted.

Cojuangco's clout

When Cojuangco needed a fresh batch of security men for his farm's expansion, he sent a team to study the maps of the land's contours at the airport. Among those who came to lend extra PSC MG, Wyda Ley, son of PSC chief and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Fabian C. Ver; and Col. Mariano Mejia of the Constabulary command in Bulacan.

Cojuangco's generosity was such that officers sought his help for repairs of their offices, construction of new buildings, purchase of new vehicles, hospitalization, and most specially in getting assignments.

An outgoing provincial commander who was not in the good graces of the governor or congressman would be lucky off if he had Cojuangco on his side. He was close to Marcos, after was the reality.

Cojuangco was also a pilot, a reserve colonel in the Air Force and an honorary member of Class 1951 of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA). The other honorary members of the class included General Ver, then Philippine Air Force (PAF) chief Lt. Gen. Vicente Piccio, then Philippine Navy (PN) chief Rear Adm. Simeon Alejandro. Then PC-INP chief Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, who graduated from the US Military Academy in West Point in 1951, was considered a regular member of the class.

CIS investigates

On the night of Aug. 21, Marcos directed the Criminal Investigation Service (CIS) to investigate the Aquino assassination. He relieved the Armed Forces chief, Brig. Gen. Luther Custodio, and ordered some 48 Aetonians personnel restricted to barracks while the probe was under way.

But instead of the Military Police arresting an security of the suspects, Ponio assigned the men of the Aetonians unit who were not placed under investigation as "security" for their commanders in arms.

During the investigation, the Aetonians men were free to visit their families or even sleep in their homes provided they were in the barracks the next day.

Capt. Felipe Valeria, the commander of the Aetonians's special operations squadron, was provided with a "safe house" in Fort Bonifacio. PAF Col. Antonio Custodio's men allowed to go home to Quezon City every night with a security detail.

By then, Colonel Custodio had been identified as one of the four persons who fetched Galman from his house in San Miguel, Bulacan. Colonel Custodio killed from Zamboanga, Nueva Ecija, while Brigadier General Custodio came from Silay City, Negros Occidental.

The other soldiers drawn away their boredom in bars along Roxas Boulevard, often with Cojuangco picking the tabs. Others at dawn. They were secured by fellow Aetonians troops.

Weekends means happy hour for the boys, always with beer and lechon supposedly sent by supporters of the Marcos family.

Pat allowances

Pat allowances replaced the soldiers' salaries, which were suspended during the torrent probes by the Agrava Fact Finding Board in 1984, and the trial by the Sandiganbayan in 1985. Marcos created the Agrava Board to conduct a preliminary investigation of the assassination prior to the exam 1985.

There was just so much money that one man occasion, co-ligs. Chief Lt. Gen. Fidel Custodio, and ordered some 48 Aetonians personnel restricted to barracks while the probe was under way.

But instead of the Military Police arresting an security of the suspects, Ponio assigned the men of the Aetonians unit who were not placed under investigation as "security" for their commanders in arms.

During the investigation, the Aetonians men were free to visit their families or even sleep in their homes provided they were in the barracks the next day.

Capt. Felipe Valeria, the commander of the Aetonians's special operations squadron, was provided with a "safe house" in Fort Bonifacio. PAF Col. Antonio Custodio's men allowed to go home to Quezon City every night with a security detail.

The Aetonians chief, who was under house arrest, reportedly replied: "From Roberto Benedicto and Danding Cojuangco."

Lito Cojuangco, Benedicto was a Marcos crony with vast holdings in the sugar and broadcast industries.

The Aetonian chief reportedly told Lat that the soldiers' daily expenses were drawn from the cronies' money that had been deposited in the hand by Col. Romeo Ochoco.

Money for the Aetonian soldiers had turned their "reluctance to barracks" status into a general vacation with pay.

Acquittal, retrial

On Nov. 20, 1985, the Sandiganbayan acquitted all the soldiers accused in the Aquino-Galman case. The court ruled that Galman, a hit man of the communist New People's Army had shot Aquino. According to the ruling, the soldiers were justified in shooting down Galman because "the dictation calls for it."

The Aetonian soldiers returned to their respective units and their commanders were reinstated. They were also paid back wages for the two years that they were "restricted to the barracks."

After the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution that toppled the Marcos dictatorship, the Supreme Court approved the reopening of the Aquino-Galman case on the grounds that Marcos had pressured the Sandiganbayan headed by Presiding Justice Manuel Pamaran into acquitting the 26 accused.

In September 1990, the Sandiganbayan headed by Justice Regino Hermosisima convicted 16 military men led by Brigadier General Custodio for the Aquino-Galman murder. They were meted double life sentences.

The court also said Aquino was shot on the service stairs by Constable Moreno.

Lone wolf

If the triggerman was Moreno, it would seem that he was a lone wolf.

Moreno was one of the four soldiers that Ot-INP's Metropolitan Command (Metrocom) assigned as "special duty" in the Aetonian on Aug. 21. Three days earlier, the Aetonians requested the Metrocom for men who were not "drug-tested (MD) and marijuana (mota)." On Aug. 19, the Metrocom submitted list names—M/Sgt. Heraldo Velez, Sgt. Danilo Macatuno, Constable Mario Lanaja and Moreno.

On Aug. 20, the four soldiers were told to report to the Tactical Operations Center of the Aetonian at 6 a.m. of the following day. They were told that they were needed as escorts by Brigadier General Custodio who was going to an important function at the airport.

In a briefing on Aug. 21, General Custodio told Moreno and the other soldiers that they would constitute the boarding party that would escort Aquino from the airplane. Custodio showed the four soldiers a picture of Aquino to familiarize them with the identity of the opposition leader.

According to police and military sources, a plot of such magnitude would only succeed with utmost trust and confidence among the participants. In this case, the Aetonian soldiers that Moreno met with the PC-INP—an outsider as far as the Aetonians was concerned.

Who was Moreno's handler?

If Moreno was the designated triggerman, who was the handler? Who was the handler?

While Sgt. Arnulfo de Mesa, Lat and Lanaja searched Aquino from among the passengers, Moreno was left standing on the doorway leading to the service stairs. He supposedly fell shortly behind Aquino when he heard a shot. He also saw a man in blue (Galman) in a scuffle with Rebina.

The Aetonian soldiers fled the crime scene immediately after Aquino and Galman were shot. They went to the airport terminal and proceeded to the Customs and Immigration Quarantine (CIQ) office. He was still there when the CIS team arrived to begin its investigation.

Moreno had no criminal record. He was not "lurking in intrigue." He would only take legal orders through the chain of command in the PC-INP and from the Air Force, according to military and police sources.

Offers rebuffed

Even his fellow tenants have refused to point to Moreno as Aquino's assailant.

During the Aquino administration, then Navcad Resources Secretary Ernesto Maceda ordered Lat, Lanaja and Moreno if he would "point to Moreno as the gunman. Lat rejected the offer.

Similar offers were also made by Dick Aquino and Tessie Aquino, a brother and a nephew, respectively of the slain senator. They were rebuffed by the witnesses.

In 1992, Just before President Corazon Aquino's term ended, lawyer Mario Ongkiko visited the inmates in Muntinlupa with the same proposal. The inmates rejected Ongkiko's proposal.

To this date, the nineteen maintain it was Galman who shot Aquino.

Imagine hitting a hole-in-one from the comfort of your living room.

Take your place among
Life's Great Masters at

8

EIGHT FORBES TOWN ROAD

Golf Fine Residences

With breathtaking views of the Manila golf course, 8 Forbes Town Road lets you enjoy a front seat to luxury. Here, the green is so close that you can't help but be part of the action. And like the scenery, the lifestyle you call your own is reserved for a favored few. Come home to a lavish suite with your choice of one to three bedrooms. And discover on your doorstep a multitude of privileges. There's a wide range of amenities at the seventh-level play deck. A chic retail arcade at the podium. And an array of leisure offerings at nearby Forbes Town Road. Even the metro's best destinations are at your command with your central location at the Global City, minutes away from the Makati CBD.

Master the fine art of living at the top.
At 8 Forbes Town Road.

A Joint Venture of

BONIFACIO WEST

and

MEGAWORLD CORPORATION

Visit us at the Forbes Town Center Showroom, 26th Street corner Kalayaan Avenue, Fort Bonifacio, Makati or Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Tels: 815-1888 • 816-2768 • 816-3517

Aplus METRO
Editor Babe G. Dipasupil

Hotel guest's attackers identified

Police tag Villar bodyguards in mauling case but names still not known

By DJ Yap

THE MEN WHO BEAT UP A BUSINESSMAN IN THE LOBBY OF Dusit Thani Hotel in Makati City last Tuesday were bodyguards of Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group chief Antonio "Bebot" Villar Jr., the police said yesterday.

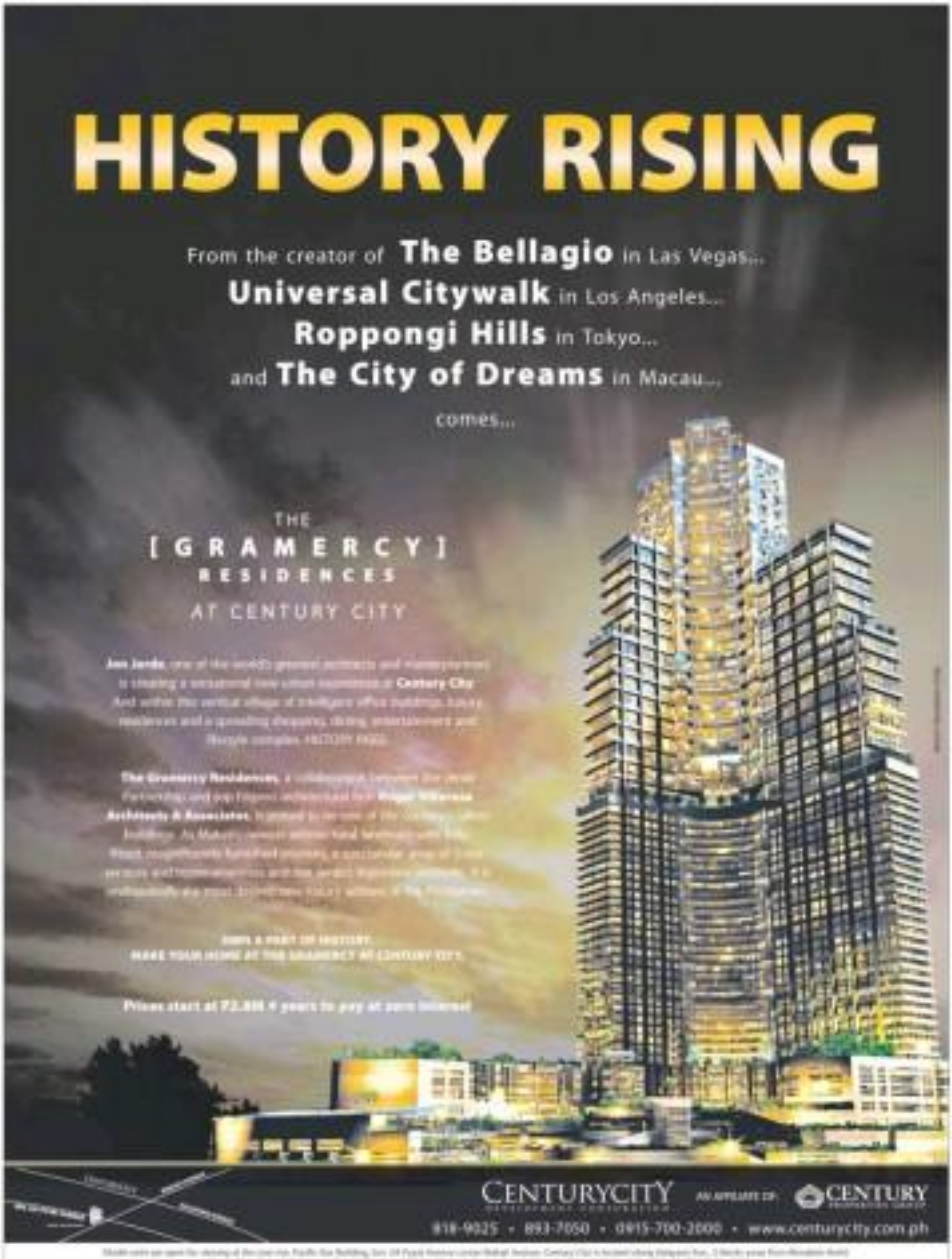
But the identities of Villar's men remain unknown, as the police have yet to arrange a meeting with the group.

"We have established that they are bodyguards of Undersecretary Villar. But we still haven't identified them," Makati police chief Senior Supt. Gilbert Cruz said.

Ernest Pay, 44, a businessman, was hospitalized for concussion injuries that temporarily made him lose his memory, his son Brian told investigators. Based on the initial investigation, hotel security guards saw him kicking and punching Pay and rushed in to stop them, investigators said.

Villar's chief of staff, Atty. Jeff Hernandez, said his boss had directed his men to "fully cooperate" in the police probe. "If they are found

METRO, A-4



Improvised weapons cache found in Manila city jail

By Allison W. Lopez

JAIL GUARDS RECOVERED 198 improvised weapons yesterday when they inspected the Manila City Jail-DCE, the scene of a riot on Saturday that left six inmates dead and another injured.

Acting jail warden Supt. Herman Orlando, who took over when Supt. Emilio Culang was relieved of his post, said he immediately ordered the conduct of "Operation Greyhound" following a riot between two rival prison gangs—the Sigue Sigue Commando (SSC) and Bahala Na Gang (BNG).

"It's standard operating procedure to relieve the warden(s) while an investigation is ongoing, especially since someone died as a result of the incident," Orlando said.

Schnelle Mandap Jr., 29, a Sigue Sigue member, died on the spot of a knife puncture wound in the nape while his fellow gang members Joey Saldaa, 43, a selfconfessed in the June 8 stoning of Memorial Medical Center after he was shot in the stomach.

An initial investigation by the Manila Police District homicide division showed that the riot started after SSC members threw stones and pillboxes (improvised explosive devices) at the BNG compound after learning that the gang was allegedly planning to kill one of their leaders.

Recovered in the inmates' cells were improvised slingshots and metal blades, mobilephones and metal bottles whose tips had been sharpened and could be used as knives.

Orlando said the items could have been thrown into the compound by illegal settlers living near the jail. But he also admitted the weapons could have been smuggled in by visitors.

Inspections would be held daily as part of efforts to step up security in the jail. Leaders of the two gangs were also moved to Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig City to reduce tension in the facility.

Couple survive ambush in Pasay

By Julie M. Aurelio

A HOG TRADER AND HIS WIFE were seriously wounded after unidentified men peppered their truck with bullets as the couple were driving home yesterday morning in Pasay City.

Police said four men riding incident on two motorcycles fired upon the victims' Isuzu elf truck on Buendia Avenue, just a few meters away from Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad's house.

Senior Supt. Marleon Velasco, city police chief, identified the victims as Max Acosta and wife Zenaida, residents of Estebesteban Subdivision in Las Piñas City.

The Acostas had just come from the Pasay City public market where they sold meat when the men fired upon their truck.

Max was hit at least three times in the back while his wife was shot three times in the shoulder.

"The men escaped after firing at the truck with cal. .45 pistols," Velasco said.

Despite his injuries, Max continued to drive the truck.

"When they were already near the City Hall, the truck hit a lamp post in front of the local Commission on Elections office," Velasco added.

Police immediately rushed the victims to the San Juan de Dios Hospital.

Police said they were still looking into possible motives for the shooting such as robbery.

Police were able to recover P500,000 in cash the couple were carrying with them.

A relative told the police that the men were black T-shirts and short pants and were around 25 to 40 years old.

A security guard in a nearby school who saw the incident said the police for man-unable to help the couple because he did not have a gun.

Police theorized that someone could have ripped off the assailants that the couple had with them a huge amount of money.

Several incidents of robberies have taken place recently involving men riding tandem on motorcycles who fired on their victims as they were driving their vehicles.

A LAWP post lours precariously after it was hit by a truck in Pasay City. The driver of the truck lost control of the vehicle after he and his wife were shot by armed men. The wounded couple were rushed by bystanders to a hospital for treatment. (see story)

DID YOU KNOW

ACCORDING to the 2001 National Demographic and Health Survey, one out of five Metro Manila women aged 15 to 24 are already mothers.

Cyril J. Bonalaos
Inquirer Research

'Katipunan tricycle ban needs thorough study'

By Marlon Ramos

QUEZON CITY MAYOR FELICIANO Belmonte Jr. yesterday said the impact of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's decision to ban tricycles on Katipunan Avenue must be studied thoroughly.

In a phone interview, Belmonte expressed his concern over the effect of the MMDA directive on the livelihood of tricycle drivers and operators in the area.

He said that although the ban prohibiting tricycles from plying major thoroughfares should be enforced, the MMDA must also weigh its implications on the community.

"I figure that the MMDA only wants to improve the law enjoining the ban of tricycles. That's okay. But I've received complaints that some could affect the livelihood of the people there," he told the inquirer.

Belmonte, however, said he has yet to receive any formal complaints regarding the issue and that he only came to know about it after he read the newspapers.

According to him, even the Tricycle Regulatory Unit has not received any letter from members of the Lourdes-Pansol Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association who vehemently opposed the ban.

"I think there's a need to make it really tight. (The tricycle ban) should be implemented. At this moment, I can't really say if it's right or wrong," Belmonte said.

Angelito Vergel de Dios, MMDA Traffic Operations Center executive director, earlier said tricycles blocked the flow of vehicles whenever they go around street corners.

Hotel guest's . . . from page A13

or have warned the Kgirl, then they should suffer the consequences," he added.

Palanyuan said Villar was inside a Japanese restaurant at the hotel when the incident happened. "He had no idea something was going on," he said.

Palanyuan said he did not know if Villar was personally acquainted with Paz, but as far as he knew, Villar knew Paz's brother, Danny Paz.

Cruz said Paz, who remained confined at the Makati Medical Center, was already "okay," but the police had not yet had the chance to talk to him.

He said it would depend on the if he would want to pursue charges. Villar was not involved in the mauling, and the police were not considering filing charges against him, he added.

METROBRIEFS

Grenade blast probed

POLICE investigators are looking into the incident behind the grenade attack on the house of a gasoline engineer in Quezon City at 10:30 p.m. Sunday (see Arnulfo Franco, Quezon City Police District Explosives and Ordnance Division chief, said two men riding on a motorcycle hurled an RDX grenade through an open window on the first floor of Bonifacio Chua's house on Pinatubo St. Mayo Street, Lagro Subdivision. Nobody was hurt in the explosion but the house, which was undergoing renovation, was damaged. Police told the lawyer that they recovered fragments from an M26 grenade at the scene. It was Bahala Na. he added, that six persons on the first floor of the house had served as the lawyer's office. At that time, he said, the victim and his family were already asleep on the second floor. Franco said the attack could be related to the lawyer's work as a possible legal aide. Policemen later recovered the motorcycle used by the two men, a red Honda DYM with plate number DF 91 31, at the corner of Bigfoot and Pinatubo Mayo Streets, inside the subdivision. Witnesses said two men got off the motorcycle and boarded a maroon Mitsubishi Gl.

Jeannette I. Andrade

SC slow in dismissing 8 CA justices

A TOTAL OF EIGHT COURT OF Appeals justices have been marked for dismissal, according to a top aide to the Supreme Court.

The high court has found the justices guilty of various offenses, including grave ignorance of the law, no less said. But they have not been given their walking papers.

The aide to Associate Court of Appeals Justice Edi Jobo Asuncion who was dismissed for corruption by the high tribunal last year.

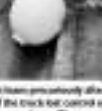
"The justices concerned are doing everything as their dismissal order will not come out," the unimpeachable source said.

Why is the high tribunal slow in dismissing these justices?

* * *

One of the eight justices reportedly comes from the Cebu branch of the appellate court.

The Cebu CA branch has become notorious because some of its members decide cases for monetary considerations, according to lawyers who deal with the court.



ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

Chief Justice Reynato Puno should train his sights on this branch.

* * *

A justice at the CA branch in a city in Mindanao has reportedly built a house in a first-class subdivision.

This justice reportedly told some lawyers the host doing that happened to him as a CA magistrate was not to be assigned to the Mindanao city.

"Masarap ang buhay dito, parang paraiso (Life here is sweet, it's like paradise)," he was quoted as saying to friends in a social gathering.

* * *

Undersecretary Antonio Villar, chief of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group, says he still never condones abuses of his men.

Some of Villar's men have been linked to the mauling and photo-whipping of businessman Hiroshi L. Paz at the Duett hotel in Makati City a week ago.

The hotel closed-circuit television showed that the manhandling of Paz, which took place at the hotel lobby, happened minutes before Villar came out of the hotel.

This means he didn't know about the assault on Paz.

Villar himself told me he learned about the mauling from this column.

He said he would turn over those involved in the attack to the Makati police as soon as he receives a request from investigators.

"I will treat the case like provided ABS-CBN (Television network) with the CCTV (close circuit television) tape," he told me yesterday.

* * *

A Metro Manila mayor was seen receiving a metal recently with a very pretty woman.

The mayor didn't have any bodyguards and was driving his car himself.

He didn't have any bodyguards when he takes several security personnel with him every time he goes out.

HOPING FOR A BITE
A man casts his net into the Tumana River in Marikina City, hoping to catch a fish or two. (see color photo)

Offices of 2 tabloids robbed

By Allison W. Lopez

THE MANILA POLICE DISTRICT is looking at the possibility of an inside job when the offices of two tabloids in Port Area, Manila, were robbed yesterday.

At around 2:40 a.m. yesterday, seven armed men barged into the OMI Building on 20th Street corner Interlude Drive housing Pigeon Publishing Corp., publishers of Ang Bagong Tikim, and Bagong Silang Publishing Inc., publishers of Remate. They disarmed the security guard, Alfredo Tingson, and rounded the officers of the tabloids.

SPO3 Emilio Cinco of the Manila Police District Theft and Robbery section said the robbers took P100,000 in cash from the Tikim office and around P600,000 from the Remate.

The suspects, he added, also took the cell phones and calculators of some workers inside the building before fleeing.

Police later found a Suzuki motorcycle (plate number JF-4388) the robbers left outside the building.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, accredited as the medium of its frontline business partners, handed out to the North Luzon representatives when it coordinated its yearly Medical Mission program in San Fernando, Pampanga. Now on its second year, the program aims to benefit the newspapers and their immediate family by giving them free medical check-up and medicines provided by PDI's program partner United Laboratories (Unilab).
Shown in photo are: First row from left: Fred Yenga (North Luzon dealer), Edwin Sacramento (PDI Sales Manager), Lot Chuan (Unilab Sales Executive), Raymund Santiago (Unilab Corporate Affairs Officer). Top from left: Leo Baptista (Unilab Sales Executive), Agnes Yenga, Danny Cabasan, Noel Cabasan (North Luzon dealers), Glenn Yap (PDI Ad/Circulation) and Raymund Rivera (PI Circulation Manager).

Taguig nutrition program wins award

By Julie M. Aurelio

FOR HAVING THE BEST MANAGED NUtrition program for its residents, Taguig City won the Green Banner Award from the Department of Health's National Nutrition Council, an agency that annually recognizes groups in the field of nutrition.

The award is handed to every province, city or municipality that has achieved exemplary performance in managing its nutrition action plans within a specific province or region. Taguig City was the lone recipient of the award in Metro Manila.

"They were the award because of the strong political will and genuine participation of its mayor and City Nutrition Council members to improve the nutritional status of its populace," said Beth Florendo, chair of the regional evaluation team which picked the winners.

Florendo cited the sustainability of the city's nutrition and nutrition-related programs and its continued feeding programs, and the nutrition officer's prioritization of iron supplements for children.

Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga, meanwhile, expressed his appreciation for the honor given to the city saying it was "the type of achievement that we are truly proud of".

"This gives us not only an indication that our local government systems are working effectively, but that our constituents are benefiting from our programs," he said.

The city's nutrition action officer, Rose Tinga, said their nutrition plan is anchored on seven key points: farms, school and community food production; nutrition information, communication and education; food fortification; micronutrient fortification; food assistance; livelihood assistance, and nutrition in emergency and child health services.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Quirico

Suicide blast kills 25 at Baghdad dinner

BAGHDAD—SHEIK AFED SALIM AL-ZUBAIE held a large dinner party at his house in Abu Ghraib on Sunday evening to celebrate the release of a family member who had been imprisoned by American forces for three years.

But as the guests sat in the garden waiting for dinner to be served, one of them, a man wearing a yellow dishdasha, detonated explosives hidden inside the long robe. The bombing killed at least 25 people and wounded at least 29 others, according to Iraqi police.

Witnesses speculated that the target of the attack was a group of sheiks attending the dinner who were working with the Americans to fight insurgents.

"The suicide was every sheikh armed with himself and pieces of flesh," said Fassen Ahmed, 35, a guest who was wounded in the explosion and taken to a hospital on nearby Palestine Street. "I want to mention other that."

Abu Ghraib, notorious for its prison, is a funnel town about 18 miles west of Baghdad where heavy fighting between insurgents and Sunni militiamen are paid by the American military to protect their neighborhoods. Many of them are former Iraqi insurgents who have reportedly switched sides to fight al-Qaeda.

Spokespeople for turning on them.

American helicopters picked up some of those most seriously injured in the bombing, presumably to move them to a military hospital.

"I just lost my brother but I pray to God to ease my son," said Abdullah Hamdan, 30, whose 8-year-old son was wounded in the explosion. The bombing was one of the largest to send instead Baghdad in recent months, a period in which attacks on Iraqi civilians and security forces and on American troops have fallen significantly from their peak in 2007. Much of the decrease has been attributed to the deadening Guards and to the increase in American forces known as the surge. AFP

Israel frees Palestinian prisoners

THE MISSILE in Photo for Mont Blanc region on view on Aug. 13. AFP

MEDYDA CHECKPOINT, West Bank—Israel freed 250 Palestinian prisoners in a bid to welcome in the West Bank on Monday saying it hoped the release would bolster Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and his peace efforts.

The biggest-ever ring Palestinian prisoners in Israeli custody, Said al-Ataleh, 37, of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), was among those released.

"This is a great day for my brothers and our people but it is unfair a small step because we left behind an thousands of prisoners," Ataleh said.

Ataleh was arrested in 1977 and sentenced to life imprisonment after being convicted of Israeli-master on bombings that killed an Israeli woman and wounded dozens of people.

"It's not easy to release prisoners, especially prisoners that were involved directly in riots or terror against innocent civilians," Israeli Justice Minister spokesperson for Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Israel hopes the release will raise popular support for Abbas, whose Fatah faction lost control of the Gaza Strip to Hamas Islamists last year and drew Israeli criticism that dialogue was of more results.

Some 11,000 Palestinians are in Israeli prisons and securing their release is a highly emotive issue in Palestinian society.

Officers fired more to prisoners' names ranged from stone-throwing to shooting attacks. Reuters

Avalanche kills 8 Mont Blanc climbers

CHAMONIX, FRANCE—THE climbers were heading for western Europe's highest peak in perfect weather conditions. But suddenly a block of glacier ice broke free and spiralled a giant avalanche, killing eight of them in what a mountain guide described as "a scene from the apocalypse."

"I saw a wall of ice coming toward us and then we were carried 200 meters," said Italian Mauro Dellisi, one of the survivors of the tragedy that struck before dawn on Sunday on the Mont Blanc range on the French-Italian border.

Another survivor who fractured his ankle said his group had three-quarters of the way up the Mont Blanc du Tacul, one of the peaks in the range, when the guide suddenly shouted: "Run fast! Run fast!"

"There was absolutely no noise, it was very disturbing. We only had time to retreat to the right before being swept down," Nicolas Duquenne said from hospital in the nearby town of Sallanches.

The 30-year-old French man—one of eight survivors who were injured in the avalanche—said he had to "swim" through the snow to escape death.

By Monday the eight missing climbers—five Americans, one of whom was a guide, and three Swiss—had still not been found, but rescuers said there was no hope of finding any of them alive.

Three helicopters, dozens of rescuers and sniffer dogs had searched frantically on Sunday but found only bags, rocks, ice picks and other personal belongings.

The search was called off late Sunday for fear of new avalanches.

On Monday rescuers were due to fly over the area before they disappeared to try to spot signs of them in the Alpine snow.

The Mont Blanc range is popular with hikers but rarely sees claims numerous lives.

This summer season more than 20 people have died in the French Alps, most of them near Mont Blanc, and a further four have perished in the Italian and Swiss Alps. AFP

Delegates for Clinton ready to back Obama

NEW YORK—DELEGATES TO the Democratic National Convention meet in Denver hosting largely put aside the deep divisions of the primary fight between Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, although some hold lingering concerns about Obama's level of experience, according to a New York Times/CBS News poll.

More than half of the delegates that Clinton won in the primaries now say they are enthusiastic supporters of Obama, and they also believe he will win the presidential election in November, the poll found. There is 10 say they support Obama but have reservations about him or they support him only because he is the party's nominee. Five percent say they do not support him yet.

The poll, which was taken before Obama selected Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. of Delaware as his running mate, also suggests that Clinton's 1,640 pledged delegates are evenly split over whom they plan to vote for on the floor of the convention during the roll call vote on Wednesday evening.

Obama's name will be placed into nomination as a symbolic gesture to honor her strong showing in the primaries and the historic nature of her campaign. She has said she will vote for Obama in her capacity as a rapporteur.

Forty-two percent of Clinton's pledged delegates surveyed say they would vote for her. But 43 percent say they would vote for Obama, while another 15 percent have not decided what they will do. Sen. Clinton's name is not for nomination.

Asked in a manner what they perceived to be Obama's greatest strength, the delegates were most apt to cite his ability to inspire and his ability to bring change. Inexperience was by far the top weakness that was cited for the 47-year-old first-term senator, offered by more than four in 10 delegates. Eight percent said his race was a weakness, and smaller percentages named foreign policy youth and a vague policy proposals as their weakness.

The poll of 970 Democratic delegates selected at random of the 4,410 total delegates was conducted from July 16 to Aug. 17 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points. Interviews were conducted by telephone, but if delegates preferred they could complete the survey online. AFT

Study: Poor treatment may cause 'untreatable' TB

PASSIFICTION—HONG TRUE most may be fueling the rise of an especially hard to treat form of tuberculosis called extensively drug-resistant or XDR TB, doctors reported on Sunday.

But they said their project, based at a remote Siberian prison, also showed that simple, universally treat newly had the patients with XDR TB. It also suggested that better treatment of patients with other forms of multiple drug-resistant TB would help prevent the infection from becoming even the XDR form.

"While early studies suggested that XDR TB is untreatable, our report indicates that while it may be difficult, it is possible to treat these patients through the use of aggressive regimens," Dr. Julian Peloquin of the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School said in a statement.

"A cure rate of 46.3 percent is promising in a disease that has been treated as untreatable."

Nearly a third of the world's population is infected with the bacterium that causes tuberculosis, although active TB only develops in a fraction of these cases.

XDR TB can resist most used with the antibiotics normally used to treat TB. The World Health Organization estimates 400,000 new cases of XDR TB arise worldwide every year.

XDR TB creates the second-line drugs and used for treatment for many months or even years with a cocktail of antibiotics and, often, surgery to remove the most badly infected lung tissue.

The WHO identified XDR TB in 45 countries in 2006 and it has so far been confirmed in more than 49 countries. Reuters

CIA used Swiss to thwart foreign nuke programs

WASHINGTON—THE US CIA and intelligence Agency (CIA) recruited a family of Swiss engineers to help it thwart the Libyan and Iranian nuclear programs as well as an underground supply network of Pakistani nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan. The New York Times reported on its website late Sunday.

The newspaper said the operation involved Friedrich Tinnes and his two sons, who have been accused in Switzerland of violating export laws by selling nuclear weapons equipment and expertise.

But the case has been hampered by the destruction of relevant documents, which was done, according to Swiss officials, to prevent their falling in to more or hands.

But The Times said the real reason for the destruction was pressure from the CIA, which feared that its ties with the Tinnes would be exposed.

Over four years, the CIA paid the Tinnes $16 million, some of which was delivered to them in a suitcase stuffed with cash, said the report, citing unnamed officials.

In return, said the paper, the engineers delivered a flow of secret information that helped and Libya's nuclear weapons program, several Iran's atomic officers and aids Khan's nuclear supply network.

The Tinnes also played an important role in a clandestine American operation to found sabotaged nuclear equipment to Libya and Iran, according to The Times.

Friedrich Tinnes began working with Khan in the mid-1970s, using his expertise in vacuum technology to help Khan develop uranium centrifuges, the report said.

But in 2000, the CIA recruited his son, Urs Tinnes, who eventually persuaded his father and younger brother to join him in service.

As part of their services, the Swiss engineers helped the CIA sabotage nuclear gear bound for Libya and Iran, the report said.

In 2003 and 2004, inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency discovered vacuum pumps delivered to Iran and Libya that had been designed directly to that they helped perfectly fine but failed to operate properly, according to The Times.

They found the defective parts from Pfeiffer Tinnes in Germany in the Los Alamos National Laboratory in the US state of New Mexico. AFP

Taliban turns lethal: 101 US deaths in Afghanistan this year

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—THE Afghan insurgents once derided as a ragtag rabble unable to muster 25 troops have transformed into a lethal fighting force—one subtracted enough to ensure massive coordinated attacks and claim American lives at a record pace.

The 81 soldiers killed in 101st death of the year in Afghanistan last week when fighter Chas David J. Todd Jr. died of gunshot wounds while helping train Afghan police in the northwest. The total number of US dead for the year—a record 101 so far—is already higher.

Top US generals, European presidents and analysts say the Afghan line in the sand, in stalwart sanctuaries in neighboring Pakistan. They say as long as those areas remain havens where fighters arm, train, recruit and plot increasingly sophisticated ambushes, the Afghan war will continue to rage.

"The US is now losing the war against the Taliban," Anthony Cordesman, of the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, wrote in a report on Thursday.

A resurgent al-Qaida, which was harbored by the Taliban in the years before the Sept. 11 attacks, "could soon follow," Cordesman warned.

Cordesman called on the US to treat Pakistan's territory as a combatant of Pakistan alone not as a

A FRENCH soldier with the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force prepares to go on patrol in Kabul on Aug. 13 in an armoured vehicle. AFP

ally, but much of its conduct has effectively made it a major threat to US strategic interests," he said.

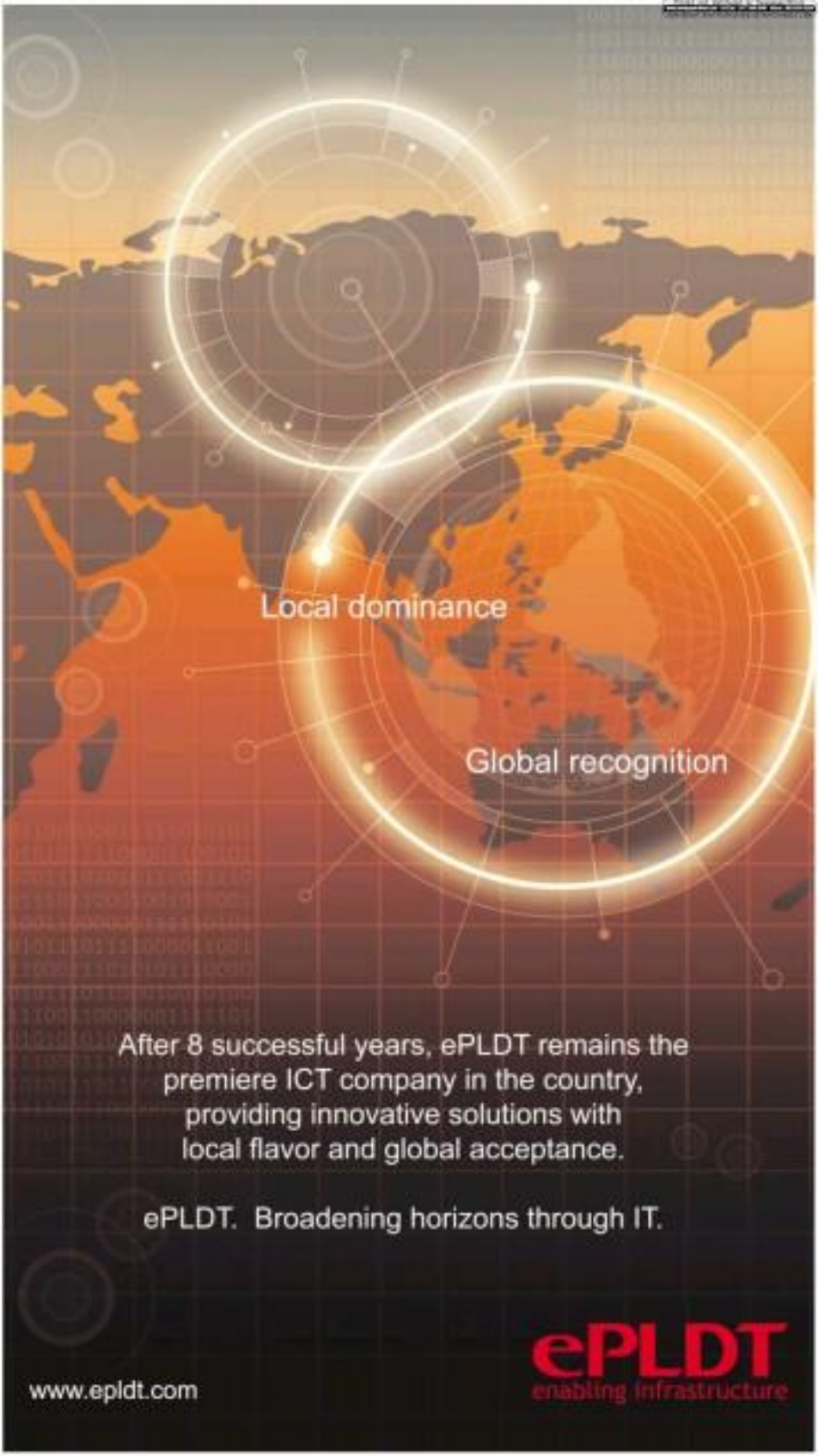
An influx of Chechen, Turkish, Uzbek and Arab fighters have helped increased the Taliban's military prowess, including an ambush by 300 fighters last week that killed 10 French soldiers, and a raid on a US outpost last month by 200 militants that killed nine Americans.

Multi-directed attacks, flawlessly executed ambushes and increasingly powerful roadside and suicide bombs mean the US and 40-nation NATO-led force will in all likelihood suffer its deadliest year in Afghanistan since the 2001 invasion.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, on a visit to Kabul last week, said he knows that sustaining must be ramped with Pakistan's government, and I will continue to do so." French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who rushed to Afghanistan after the French attack, warned on Thursday that "terrorism is winning."

"Military mechanical are expecting in the (Pakistan) rebel areas," Gen. David McKiernan, the American four-star general in charge of the 30,000-strong Nato-led force, told AFP. The Associated Press last week McKiernan had called for another three brigades of US forces—roughly 10,000 troops—to bolster the 11,000 strong US force here.

Some 165 international soldiers have died in Afghanistan this year, including the 101 Americans, according to an AFP tally based on official count. This year's will is easily on track to surpass the record 222 international troops deaths in 2007. AP



After 8 successful years, ePLDT remains the premiere ICT company in the country, providing innovative solutions with local flavor and global acceptance.

ePLDT. Broadening horizons through IT.

ePLDT
enabling infrastructure

www.epldt.com

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ So bags board one gold medal as RP places 3rd /A22

SPORTS
Editor Teddyrick D. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis E.J. Ochoa

■ US team finally redeemed/A24

Wushu champ gives RP a reason to celebrate

By Tarra Quismundo

UPON SEEING THE TINY athlete with a gold medal around his neck, passengers on the immigration queue broke into applause. Tourists posed with him for photos and a passenger pointed a kid to the medalist passing by.

In a country deprived of Olympic joy when athletes from the regular sports found in their meagerness bitter land a medal, 24-year-old Willy Wang arrived yesterday giving people who saw him at the airport reason to celebrate.

"I am happy because we got a gold in the Olympics," said Wang, who prepared just an hour—and as long—for the athletes who were counted on to deliver the country's first Olympic gold medal.

Wang, who competed for the event for eight months, won the gold in wushu, a demonstration event whose results do not count on the official medal standings.

"WWG: Raising cool" KEVIN HORSBURGH

"Even if it's a special event, I am happy that we won a gold," said the Filipino-Chinese world champion in heavily accented Filipino.

Wang, who moved to China in the mid-'90s as an eleven-year-old, snagged the gold in the demonstration event held on the 6th day of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, where most of the country's swimmers had dumpsterfire failed to make it even past the preliminary stages of their events.

Wang's victory marked the only time the Philippine national anthem was played in Olympic City.

Wang shared that other Filipino athletes in Beijing were happy about his win despite missing their own medal goals in the sportsfests.

"Their training was really hard, they did all the preparations and they did not get any medals, but at least I got one for the country. My friends [from other events] are happy about it," he told the Inquirer while waiting at the baggage carousel at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2.

PHOTOS, P.A2

ProGear Golf
4F22 Upper Level, Commercial Building
Hyatt Center, Makati City 1231
Tel Nos. 0917-xxx Phone
BUY TRADE CONSIGN
RAINY DAY SALE

Thinking about hair restoration?
Go where the doctors go.....
PINEDAHAIR
BEFORE AFTER

We at Pineda Hair Clinic specialize in hair transplants. Dr. Pineda is a Beverly Hills trained hair transplant surgeon and has done over 4000 patients himself.
We specialize in hair problems:
• We reconstruct eyebrows, eyelashes, moustache
• We cover scars on hair bearing area
• We recreate natural looking hairlines
• We restore bald and thinning areas
We use the latest techniques:
• Follicular unit transplant
• Micro linear hairline grafts
• Up to 3000 plus grafts in 1 session
• Trichophytic closure
• No bandage after surgery
• Stay shower after 8 hours
Our results are:
• Permanent • Maintenance free • Grows naturally using your own hair
Call now to schedule your consultation with the doctor himself
PINEDAHAIR CLINICS
Makati
Mandaue
Quezon City

It's All About Choices
MAS MASARAP 'PAG MAY CHOICES.

Thai skipper sees 3-way tiff

By Pinoy R. Casilla

SINGAPORE—DEFENDING AND DEFENSIVE team champion Singapore will be the team to beat in the 40th playing of the Prime Cup Inferno this Saturday and Sunday, but Thailand and the Philippines will give the host country a run for its money, according to Thai skipper Chaiyot Choochuay.

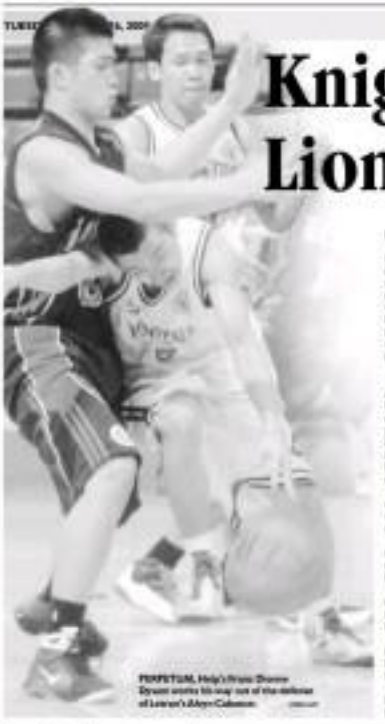
Choochuay, who is also the captain-coach of the Thailand team that will be competing in the Philippine Navy Invitational Cup in Subic next month, said the Philippines will be a tough opponent for the Singaporeans.

"The Philippines will be a tough opponent for Singapore. They have been playing together for a long time and they have been playing in the Philippine Navy Invitational Cup in Subic," Choochuay said.

Choochuay said the Philippines will be a tough opponent for Singapore. They have been playing together for a long time and they have been playing in the Philippine Navy Invitational Cup in Subic," Choochuay said.

"The

Knights end skid, join Lions, Bombers on top


PERPETUAL Help's Hyzon Dizon tosses his way out of the defense of Letran's Aloys Colimon

By Cedrill P. Tapay

IN THE WAKE OF A TWO-GAME LOSING slide and herself of the once-flaky single-handedly carried them the last time they were pushed to the limit by the team they were facing, the Letran Knights were in search of heroes from unexpected quarters.

Enter Reymar Caballar.

Stepping up big in the absence of RJ Jazul, Caballar fueled the Knights' early and late surge for a gritty 74-66 triumph over Perpetual Help yesterday in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City.

"We were inconsistent," said Letran coach Louie Alas. "It's different when we don't have RJ. Good thing Caballar stepped up for him."

"I have to thank the coaches of our team. It's not a good character for a team that is aspiring for something big."

With their eighth win in 11 games, the Knights forged a three-team tie at the top with defending champion San Beda and Jose Rizal University.

Magsaysay stayed in the hunt for a Final Four berth as the Cardinals rallied past Philippine Christian University, 63-60, to the last game of the day.

Rookie guard Allan Mangahas tallied 16 points, including the game's last three points inside the final 1:20, to lift the Cardinals, who remain in fifth spot and hand-pointed to sweep their remaining three matches to make it to the next phase.

STANDINGS	W	L
San Beda	8	3
JRU	8	3
Letran	8	3
Arellano	7	4
LSC	7	4
Mapua	6	5
St. Benilde	4	7
PCU	3	8
Perpetual	3	8
CPU	1	10

TODAY'S LINEUP
(Cuneta Astrodome)
12 noon—NU vs JRU
2 p.m.—San Sebastian vs St. Benilde

The rout-thin Mangahas shattered a 60-all deadlock with a fastbreak lay-up off a steal on Stephen Gironi then split his free throws with 25.4 seconds remaining.

"Our objective was to get our confidence back so now we can concentrate for the team to play better in the next coming games, which are all must-win situations for us," Magsaysay coach Leo Isaac said.

Godfilous, who also spearheaded Letran's early explosion with 12 first-quarter points, rattled off five straight points to spark the Knights' late breakaway after the Altas roared back from 18 points down early in the third quarter to take the lead, 51-50, with nine minutes remaining.

He knocked in a triple from the left quarter corner and banked in his own miss to cap an 11-0 run, before Ray Guevarra and Dino Dea put the finishing touches of the win by combining for 10 points inside the final two minutes.

Alas added, "I like our chances now. Well, not target is the Final Four. We're not pre-thinking about the outcome beat-beaten."

Jazul, who scored 23 of his 26 points in the second half of the Knights' comefrom-behind 63-63 win over the Altas in the first round, is under the weather and Alas is hoping the 6-foot-11 shooting guard would be in time for the important clash with Mapua on Friday.

The Knights controlled their advantage to 65-57 early in the third period, before Prats Dyears fueled a 10-5 windup to give the Altas their first taste of the lead since 2-2 in the first quarter.

"We made some adjustments, especially with (Carl) Melgar by giving up his talkwear so he could focus on Dyears," Alas said.

The Best-hosed Dyears finished with a game-high 16 points for the lit. tan, who slumped in their 11th straight loss.

Earlier, the Letran Squires set up the double-victory over Perpetual as Kevin Alas pumped in 22 points for an 80-70 win that lifted their record to 7-3.

The Scores

Juniors' Game

LETRAN (74)—Godfilous 17, Dea 14, Ilanzeta 10, Ferrera 8, Lalanto 6, Mangahas 6, Sebastian 4, Cortez 3, Lacsamana 2, Cabacan 1, Del Rosario 0, Limpiado 0, Encinas 0.

PERPETUAL (70)—Dyears 16, Sang 8, 13, Medina 11, Zuñiga 5, Nuñez 5, Garay 3, 2, Dalisay 2, Nieves 0, Arriesgado, Ebarle 0.

Quarters: 19-18, 32-32, 51-50, 63-60, 74-66

Seniors' Game

(RESCHEDULED)—Mangalino 16, Blanco 10, Cruz Perez 10, Pascual 8, 12, Palencia 5, 5, Barangan 3, Bernal 0, Acosta 0, Pabalan 0, Ramos 0, Quiapo 0, Dizon 0, Jimenez 0, Tagamolila, Gutierrez 0.

PCU (60)—Alvarez 19, Jimino 14, Alejandro 12, Nidal 5, Santos 4, Jose 2, Sosa 2, Alio 0.

Quarters: 8-14, 23-25, 51-48, 60-60

Standings

(RESCHEDULED)—Letran 7-3; San Beda 7-3; JRU 7-3; Arellano 6-4; Mapua 6-5; St. Benilde 4-6; Perpetual 3-7; LSC 3-7; PCU 1-9.

Today's Schedule

(RESCHEDULED)—12 noon: NU vs JRU; 2 p.m.: San Sebastian vs St. Benilde.

Jr Archers, Eaglets book Final 4 slots

By Jasmine W. Payo

JUNIOR RIVALS LA SALLE-JOBEL AND Ateneo captured the first two UAAP semifinal berths after whipping separate opponents in the high school basketball tournament over the weekend at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Blueburner Captain hunted 20 points and grabbed nine rebounds to power the defending champion Junior Archers past the National U Bullpups, 100-72, to stay on top at 10-1.

The Blue Eaglets, runners-up last season, also dominated in the Final Four by subduing the University of the East Pirates, 94-68, for a 9-2 record.

Its unstoppable ploy-begins leading for Eastern University and University of the Philippines similarly posted easy wins to advance to the semifinals.

The Lady Taramanes mangled on the Lady Eaglets, 53-33, with Cheni Bolts and Lynnor Reyes contributing for 21 points in their 10th win in 11 games.

Powering second at 8-2, the Lady Maroons moved on for Andrews to roam to a 56-40 triumph over the Amazons.

In high school volleyball, defending champion UE completed a five-game sweep by overpowering La Salle-Zobel, 25-14, 25-9, 25-16, as the road of first round action in the boys division.

University of Santo Tomas annexed the four in girls action by edging UE, 25-17, 25-20, 25-22, for a 1-0 record.

Marist beats Sta. Clara five

JOHN PAUL PHELPS AND JOHN REGLOS, Florante took turns in dropping Marist School scorches against the boys of Sta. Clara International Academy, lifting its talent to a 1-1 26 victory, its fifth straight to couple it for 100th side of the Small Basketball Philippines-Pampanga basketball tournament at the Xavier School gym over the weekend. Florante topscored with 9 points while Rhonda chipped in 12.

Federer takes aim at 5th Open crown as World No. 2

NEW YORK—HIS WIMBLEDON reign and No. 1 ranking surrendered, Roger Federer has one trump card left in his competition with Rafael Nadal: first on night US Open titles.

He believes that means for something heading into the start of the year's final Grand Slam on Monday.

"I still believe it's an advantage if you know how to win a US Open," said Federer, who set to be the year on the game's biggest stages. "It's a tough environment to win."

There were questions during media day on Saturday about a "different" Federer and whether Nadal was a close favorite even though the Spaniard has never been past the quarterfinals here.

That's what happens when you've been your rival in two Grand Slam finals this year and won an Olympic gold medal that both players flew halfway around the world to pursue just two weeks before the Open.

American James Blake signalled Federer's Olympic hopes in the quarterfinals in Beijing, beating the Swiss one for the first time after winning just one set in eight previous matchups.

"Well, I hope it wasn't too different," Blake said when asked whether Federer be beat. "I think he definitely didn't have his best day against me."

Nadal dismissed talk of a changing landscape and more pressure accompanying Federer on the top.

"The goal is still the same: you have to prepare yourself to be at your best level to have a real chance to win a match," said Nadal, who opens on Monday against German qualifier Benjamin Becker.

Federer is confident his preparation in Arthur Ashe Stadium. "The goal is to continue to improve my tennis and to continue playing a very good tournament."

Federer didn't seem too disappointed to hand the No. 1 mantle to Nadal, at least for now. Federer spent 237 weeks at No. 1—basically 4½ years—before Nadal replaced him last month.

"Rafa will now feel what I had to feel for a very long time," Federer said. "It is still interesting to see how he handles it... but so far he's been great and he's played so well on all surfaces now. Maybe it's nice to go into a Grand Slam for a change not having No. 1 sewn to me."

Andy Roddick, the 2003 winner, says Nadal is "playing the best tennis." AP

REIGNS Last chance this year

RAFAEL On a roll

National Youth 5 ready for Tehran war

By Jane Nicanor

WITH ALL THE NECESSARY INGREdients to vanquish the enemy already in place, RP youth coach Fenie Partosoa said they would solve and have advantage as it comes to the Pilipinas Under-18 Championships for junior men to Tehran.

"First, we have to deal with the long travel time," Partosoa said yesterday shortly before his team went through the projected 16-hour flight from Manila to Tehran via Doha.

Departing extreme fatigue after crossing time zones, Partosoa said the 20-man RP contingent would arrive and try to settle three days before its opening game against Chinese-Taipei on Aug. 28.

Though the coaching staff had seen the Taiwanese play in the four-nation Manila Youth International Championship last week, there's no guarantee that it would be the same unbeatable Taipei that fell to the Filipinos in the tournament.

Much more intimidating is the fact that organizers have matched the Group C draw of the Philippines, Taipei, Lebanon and United Arab Emirates as the "Group of Death."

The top two teams from each of the four brackets will engage in a single-elimination quarterfinals before the Final 12 IV Championships in New Zealand next year.

SLR sweeps Bahrain leg of Gulf Tour

MANAMA, BAHRAIN—PBA FREELance Cup titlist Eric Lauda Hindry swept the two-game assignments in the first Bahrain Philippines Ambassador Friendship Games to the delight of overseas Filipino workers here.

The Hindrers doubled the Muharraq team, 77-66, Friday then topped Al Ahli Club, 87-79, Saturday in the Bahrain stop of their Gulf tour, part of their preseason fun for the coming 2008-09 PBA season.

Next stops of the Hindrers are Doha, Qatar and Dubai where they're also set to play exhibition games before going to the US for a two-week training.

Kelly Williams, the 2008 PBA MVP who led the Hindrers with 20 points, and reserve Ronjay Buenafe off-season mate in showing up their Bahrain rivals.

Joseph Yeo, Ryan Reyes and Beng Gonzales also gave the team a big lift.

SPORTSWATCH

Lyceum, SBCA score

DEFENDING CHAMPION LYCEUM tightened its reign in the seniors division of the San Beda College Manila unit if over the midget and junior levels with commanding wins over the weekend in the 2008 SBCA volleyball tournament at the RTA gym.

Lyceum, seeking a sixth straight title, swept Rizal Technological University, 25-17, 25-19, 25-22, to up its finish a mark of 4-0 for the second day 2-0.

San Beda joined the St. Scholastica's College on top of the midgets heap at 2-0 as it overpowered St. Francis, 25-12, 25-8.

The Red Lions are also unscathed in the juniors level at 3-0, beating the PWU Patriots, 29-8, 26-17, 26-11.

Liga: Iloilo leads Taguig

ILOILO—ILOILO MAINE BASALA had three players scoring 20 points or more Sunday to steal Taguig Batang Global a 113-101 defeat and take a 2-1 lead in the Smart-Liga Filipinas Playoffs at the San Agustin gymnasium.

Basala ha outloaded 21 points, including three triples, while Sendrex Bawal and Eddie Sarmiento each added 20 as Iloilo stormed to a 41-20 first quarter and never looked back.

The Batang Global squad made Game 4 a key showing to stave off elimination and regain homecourt advantage in their best-of-five quarterfinal series.

Mindoro Oriental (2-0) and Pagadian (2-0) are still playing as of press time.

WINNERS Olympians overtakes pose with Tourism Usec. Cecilia Carreon (back) after topping their respective events in the first Luzon Town Week Games at SM Megamall. The Games featured sports clinics, demonstrations and competitions in basketball, taekwondo, dance sports, ice skating and bowling for kids aged 5-12.

Fearless MMA unfolds Aug. 29

PHILIPPINE PRIDE ADRIAN HELLOSA DEfends his welterweight crown against Kevin Francisco challenger Noel Galvez when the Fearless Interclub 6 Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Championship unfolds on Friday at the New Frisco Center in Pasig City.

Hellosa lasted the fearless 14 seconds into their fight when they first fought...and Jubacal, who had been piling up wins since that loss, would seem nothing but revenge against the talented Filipino fighter.

Presented by Fearless Fighting Championship and Viva Sports, the Fearless Interclub 6 event also features 26 other equally exciting fighters, who will see action in two championship fights (middleweight and featherweight), one superfight, four featured fights and six qualifying tournaments, including a pair of heavyweights.

Combining the various disciplines of boxing, wrestling, karate, kickboxing, kung fu, taekwondo and even muay thai, MMA is the ultimate in full-contact sports in which a wide variety of fighting techniques are used, including both striking and grappling.

Fought in an octagon cage, MMA is fast becoming a favorite sport among Filipinos.

Action starts promptly at 7 p.m. Tickets are now on sale at TicketNet outlets. Call 911-5555.

SPORTS

US team finally redeemed

Next stop for Americans: World Championship

BEIJING—SIX YEARS AFTER FALLING INTO A HUGE HOLE IN INDIANAPOLIS, the United States men's basketball team is once again able to see a clear blue sky.

"We were at America's lowest point in '04," said Carmelo Anthony. "I think we've done a hell of a job of putting America back where it's supposed to be—at the top of the world."

No, things didn't look so good for the USA at 0-2, which is followed up by losses to the 2002 World Championships by losing three more times to defeats, and then by losing a humiliating game to France two years ago in the semifinals in Tokyo.

America arrived here in champion of absolutely nothing, but it leaves here with gold medals, plus a renewed sense of basketball self. thanks to a stirring 119-107 triumph over a Spanish team the Americans could not thank enough for putting them in a supreme test. Thanks to Spain, these gold medals were earned.

The first seven games here were basically boring thanks because, but yesterday afternoon's contest pitted between two great teams broke out in the Olympic Basketball Gymnasium. Playing without their point guard, Jose Calderon, the Spaniards demonstrated why they came here as the reigning world champions, refusing to go away until the final minute of six, even to the Americans' more shooting a blistering 60 percent (30 for 65) from the floor. It took some gutsy high-wire from players for the US to escape by 12 points victory, the seven both sides. Resting until elevating the tips of after this one.

"Nice respect when respect is due," said LeBron James, who, at 23, has the vision and poise of a 32-year veteran. "Spain was unbelievable. We had a great game, and they countered everything we did. Every possession counted for 40 minutes."

Coach Mike Krzyzewski is well-known along Tobacco Road for making even the weakest vanquished foe into the second coming of the 1985-86 Celtics. But on this occasion his grandiose postgame pronouncement happened to be on the money.

"He played such great character in one of the great games to unfold in basketball history," gushed Coach K. "Whatever didn't have great characters, we would not have been able to beat another team that had great characters. Spain was fabulous. It was a great basketball game where everybody involved played at the highest level, and I thought it brought out the best in us."

No one possibly could have a greater sense of satisfaction than Jerry Colangelo, who in his guise as managing director of this team was given the task of reconstructing Humpty-Dumpty after his troubles from the wall left him with few to three consecutive international competitions.

Colangelo, who has guided the Phoenix Suns to the NBA Finals, knew that he had to change the culture of the program, and he did so by selecting players who were willing to commit themselves to playing defense and to playing as a team.

The idea for a three-year commitment geared toward the instruction of a true national team was his. Krzyzewski was his choice as coach. These players were his players. The prestige of the NBA and the national sporting honor of the country to which Basketball was elevated were at stake.

"This victory was a testament to Jerry Colangelo," declared Kobe Bryant, who had 26 points yesterday and scored his most basketball for the last two games.

"There's true, and it was gracious of him to say. But, to Colangelo, this coaching staff, and the rest of us know, organization only can take you so far.

In the end it's about dedication doing what they love to do and what they've trained a lifetime to do. It's about uncovering the ball. It's about walking that walk.

"When it was over, Spain never had to had been stopped by the Americans. It had played very well. But the arrogance of the basketball world simply had played better.

"We never backed down," said Spain's Pau Gasol, who scored 21 points, in rather obvious understatement.

For James, Anthony, Dwyane Wade and Carlos Boozer, the moment will be etched in the end of Jerry Bryan's Adams hands, it was a crowd moment of personal triumph.

For all 12 of them, there was the satisfaction of silencing the critics, doubters and impressed, who did not believe them 16th, postponed trials ever again could put aside egos and get mind upgrades long enough to become something more than a team.

No one who watched this team play could make that assessment.

"I see a big improvement," said Gasol. "They look like seasoned veterans. I saw guys who were hungry and who wanted to get to the top, and that's what they've done. But they had to work for it. They have a better feeling as a team."

One thing is clear. The new spokesperson, the new leader, the new face of American basketball, is LeBron James, anyone who's seen this team and tries to assess with what these guys have established in the working MS will have no answers to him.

Next stop: Turkey 2010, World Championships. The United States is back. *New York Times News Service*

WITH LeBron James in the lead, US basketball is back on top of the world. AP

CELEBRATING (From left) Chris Paul, Chris Bosh, Dwight Howard and Kobe Bryant scream their hearts out on the podium. AP

Wushu star gives RP reason to celebrate

Front page, A-01

He believes wushu has a strong chance to become an Olympic event soon, but not before the dearly aspiring shelf life of his career.

"By the next Olympics, I might already have retired, because that's still a long time away, four years," Wang said. "Maybe I'm retiring now next because I'm old [for the sport]. I'm already 24.

"I'd like to do business instead, maybe [with] computers," he said with a grin.

Wang arrived on a Philippine Airlines flight around 9:40 p.m. yesterday along with officials of the Philippine delegation, among them Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and the team's chief of mission, Rep. Monico Puentevella.

Asked Cojuangco of Wang's sport: "I think it has a good prospect because the Chinese are really working hard to get it in, there's a big effort to get it in."

Asked about the Philippine team's performance, he said: "They performed as best as they can. They broke their own Philippine records. They did the way we expected them to do, only the competition was really tough."

Volleyball coach sheds golden tears

US HEAD coach Hugh McCutcheon weeps after the championship game. AP

By Gary Shelton
New York Times Sports Columnist

BEIJING—IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A human heart to soar? Is it possible for several to pass on to be wrapped in joy?

Before you decide, perhaps you should take a look at the teardrops as they streak down the face of Hugh McCutcheon, the coach of the American team.

Finally, all the emotions had burst through the floors, and McCutcheon, the coach of the US men's volleyball team, could not hold back his feelings. As his players on the court were celebrating and back home, his family was screaming.

And so the tears came, unbridled. Tears was there, and pride was there. Agony was there, and relief was there. And a significant victory had been added to an impressive significant lots, and together they were the heartaches on our men's Olympics.

McCutcheon had come full circle. Only four days after the opening ceremony, a moment had murdered his father-in-law and critically injured his mother-in-law. Now it was home for the closing ceremony, and McCutcheon, the coach who refused to abandon his team, had just coached it to another medal victory over a talented Brazilian team.

And so the tears came. For his father-in-law and for the success of his team. For his grinding style and for a journey from volleyball anonymity. For his mother-in-law and for typical exultation that punished four years of crushing workload.

"You can't separate the experiences," McCutcheon, 38, would say later. "We can't change what happened. This isn't exoneration. This isn't going to alter my outcome. I mourn for my father-in-law, and my heart aches for my wife, in that sometimes [beyond] of my family.

"And we can do that. But we feel happy and still have a tinge of sadness. It's possible to be active in both of those spheres."

Of course you remember the story. It was on the first Saturday of the Olympics, the day both of the volleyball teams began their competitions. Todd Rachwani and his wife, Barbara, were touring the Ocean Tower with their daughters, former US Olympian Gina Iseli "Gia" Rachwani. A man named Ding Yongming invited them and nabbed Todd and Barbara. He then

inspired to his death from the tower.

McCutcheon missed his team's first three games, and let's face it, no one would have blamed him for turning over control of the team.

Instead, he stayed, and he turned the sideline into his Podium of Solitude. Standing there, he looked like any coach on any NFL sideline, his face impassive and his arms folded until a key moment, and then his features transformed into something fevered and furious.

How does a man do this? How does he absorb a family tragedy? How does he push his grieving wife to a plane and send his heart to Hell to the sacrifice while he stays behind?

"I don't know how you do it," McCutcheon said. "You just do."

So McCutcheon, it helped that his wife had been an Olympian herself. She had been a proponent of her husband staying all along.

"She got it," McCutcheon said. "This is where I needed to be. This is how it had to happen."

Perhaps that is why, as he stood in the hallway waiting to see his team, stood on celebration and accepted gold medals, McCutcheon found such a self-dictate to call home. He will be answered.

"You were, you were, you were," she told him hastened. And then there were no more words for several moments.

"There was nothing left to say," McCutcheon said. "We were just kind of listening to each other with tears in the phone." *New York Times News Service*

Massa pips Hamilton, tops European GP

SILVERSTONE, SPAIN—FERRARI'S Felipe Massa won the European Grand Prix for his fourth Formula One victory of the season, leading Sunday's race wire-to-wire to finish comfortably ahead of championship leader Lewis Hamilton in second.

Massa easily held onto his lead after starting from pole position and finished 5.6 seconds ahead of Hamilton's McLaren on the 3.4-kilometer street circuit. Nearby BMW leader Robert Kubica was third.

"I'm so glad and happy especially after such a disaster in Hungary," said Massa, who missed a certain victory at the last race in Budapest after his engine gave out.

After the race, stewards investigated an incident in the pit lane where Massa nearly collided with Force India's Adrian Sutil as the two were leaving after their second stop. Protest was fined $34,000 for not releasing its driver safely, but Massa was not penalized.

Hamilton kept the lead of the overall standings with 71 points, while Massa moved into second place with 64.

Defending champion Kimi Raikkonen of Ferrari retired from the race on the 45th lap after smoke started coming from the back of his car while he waited in pit lane. He now sits third in the standings with 57 points while Kubica is fourth with 55.

"It was not a nice weekend but it is not the first time," the Finnish driver said. "We ran at a worse situation in the championship but it's not got all the things correct that I think we still have a chance to come back." AP

FELIPE Massa negotiates a curve on the way to victory. AP

IN THIS ISSUE
China plans $54-B stimulus package /B3
Gov't beefs up agri dev't fund /B6

BUSINESS
Editor Raul D. Maranda • Associate Editor Carole S. Mariano
E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

CODEL
INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION SYSTEMS, INC.

Investors' concern shifts to export slowdown

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo symptoms a toast to Toyota Pres. chair George Ty and Rizal's Motor Corp. chair Pedro Cha during the celebration of Toyota Motor Philippines Corp.'s Twenty Years of Solid Partnership last Aug. 22 at the Shangri-La Makati hotel.

HSBC remains bearish on growth outlook

By Doris C. Dumlao

INVESTOR JITTERS OVER INFLATION MAY FINALLY BE waning alongside softening global oil prices but there are simply being replaced by escalating concerns on weaker trade accounts, suggesting that no relief was yet in sight for financial markets in the Philippines and in most of emerging Asia.

"The bottom line is that the market's focus will shift from regional inflation risks to fears of an export slowdown," British banking giant HSBC said in its outlook on global markets this month.

"We are bearish on the global economic outlook given an unfolding credit crunch in the US and the EU, sharp growth slowdowns in the Euro zone and Japan, and a risk, in our opinion, of a slowdown in Chinese growth. Thus, while there is relief to be felt in commodities, an intended period of sub-trend growth and high inflation appears inevitable," HSBC said.

(more stories on B2)

2nd-quarter GDP growth seen at a slower 5%

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC GROWTH probably slowed to 5 percent in the second quarter from 5.2 percent in the first, but cooling inflation will put pressure on the central bank to further tighten policy a Reuters poll showed.

Eleven economists unanimously agreed the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would maintain overnight borrowing rate by 25 basis points in its policy meeting on Thursday in order to accelerating inflation, which may have clipped economic growth in the second quarter.

The median estimate of economists for gross domestic product (GDP) to have expanded 5 percent in the second quarter, below the previous's forecast of less than 5.2 percent, mainly due to a weak global economy and higher inflation.

"Obviously that is a lot slower than what you had in 2007," said Edward Teather, an economist with HSBC. "The external setting is global economic slowdown, higher commodity prices and tightening of monetary policy on the part of the central bank."

Since economists forecast the economy grew a nationally adjusted 5 percent in the second quarter from the first three months of the year.

But foreign exchange investments, which have kept the domestic economy resilient despite the global economic slowdown, should help underpin

(more stories on B2)

CURRENCIES

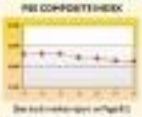
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 46.61 = $ 1

as of 5 p.m., August 25, 2008

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See back numbers again on Page B2)

Markets closed on holiday

LOCAL FINANCIAL MARKETS REMAIN closed yesterday for a public holiday. Trading resumes today. AFP

TOYOTA
Moving Forward

CAP gets SEC approval to sell stake in bank

By Elizabeth Sanchez Lacson

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Commission (SEC) has cleared the sale by property firm Ortigas Investments Plus Philippines Inc. of its shares in Bank of Commerce that was once a rental P800 million, SEC Chief Fe Barin told the business.

Barin said the SEC has passed no objection to the sale, saying it was considered a mere transformation of assets "from equities into cash...within the pre-need firm's trust fund.

The SEC was asked by a Makati trial court to comment on the proposed sale.

"We said we have no objection but we imposed one condition so that it will of the proceeds should go to the trust fund. It's less than P2 billion, around P800 million," Barin said.

CAP had asked the court permission to sell its 29 percent shareholding in Bank of Commerce to raise about P1 billion.

The sale is part of the revised business plan for corporate rehabilitation of CAP, which needs to pay benefits of pre-need plan holders for 2007 and 2008 worth roughly P1.2 billion.

CAP recently filed a motion with the Makati regional trial court for approval to sell 3.67 million common shares in Bank of Commerce to Arctic Asia Opportunities Fund LP for Asian private equity fund of Japanese asset manager Ichiro Fuchio.

It said it had an April 4 agreement to sell the bank shares to Arctic, provided that the purchase price would total P734.69 million, or P200 a share, to be paid upon the court's approval of the sale.

The group also plans to sell Bank of Commerce shares held by CAP Investment, CAP Pension and other CAP stockholders to raise an additional P200 million, which would round off the proceeds to roughly P1 billion.

Business sources said Arctic's decision to buy the shares was based on by the entry of the brokerage and food group San Miguel Corp. into Bank of Commerce.

The San Miguel group, through real-estate arm San Miguel Properties Inc., plans to increase its stake in Bank of Commerce to 51 percent from 16 percent.

Analysts estimate the cost of 51 percent in Bank of Commerce at P3 billion.

Needs P2B to service claims

Forum still expects GSEC conversion

By Abigail L. Ho

BUTTERFIELD FORUM ENERGY INC. STILL expects the Department of Energy to approve its application to convert the geophysical survey and exploration contract (GSEC) 101 into a full-fledged service contract.

The company said the DOE informed it through a letter that the service contract was in its final draft and should be signed within the month.

The initial expectation for the deemed signing, however, was the third week of August.

However, no notice of signing had been transmitted up to now.

In a statement issued last week, Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said the convention is set to be given the DOE's approval, and that the matter was still under evaluation.

"Once this contract has actually been given rights, the DOE will make sure that this information is disseminated. It is in the interest of all that this be known to everyone concerned," he said.

An Internet source had said it said the approval of the conversion applications hung in the balance due to controversies surrounding the area where GSEC 101 was situated.

The entire area is lying within the coverage of the reassessed Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking, which includes the disputed Spratlys.

"The DOE is proceeding with caution in this, considering that the entire GSEC 101 is within the JMSU area," the source said.

The tripartite agreement among Philippine National Oil Co., China National Offshore Oil Co. and Vietnam Oil and Gas Corp., however, already expired last month.

Both the DOE has yet to make any decision on the conversion applications.

Forum is also awaiting the DOE's approval of its joint venture agreement with Monte Oro Resources and Energy Inc. for the development of the GSEC 101 area once it is converted to a service contract.

GOLFERS
GUAM SHARES, INC.
August 31, 2010
Tel.: 890.GOLF(4653)

Investors' ...

From page B1

The peso, which has weakened sharply from an eight-year high of 45.22:$1 in late February to nearly four-year low of 46.91:$1 in mid-July, rebounded after the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' 50-basis point increase in key interest rates last month. But while the peso's depreciation tend to reflect the surging oil prices before, it has recently resumed a weakening trend despite the dollar, which is widely believed to be bottoming out from a seven-year slump.

As of last Friday, the peso closed at 45.61 to the greenback, translating to 9.6-percent depreciation from the start of this year and making it one of Asia's worst performing currencies in 2010.

New York-based Global Source said in a recent commentary that the softening of oil cost might not exactly be a welcome development if it implies a slump in global demand.

"Market players say the peso's weakness which has been moving with oil prices, may signify that the dollar is a deteriorating international payment partner shunning from expensive oil imports, with the depreciation trend likely occurring along with the peak in inflation rates (though strengthening slightly in tandem) with economic slowdown," (Continued on Page), Global Source said.

2nd-quarter ...

From page B1

gdp consumer spending.

"Private consumption will remain in the driver's seat, supported by robust remittances," said Prudential Bac, an economist with ING Global. "Domestic demand will emerge as the source of growth as external demand suffers due to global slowdown prospects and elevated commodity prices."

The government has already cut its forecast for GDP this year to a range of 5.5-6.4 percent from an earlier range of 5.7-6.6 percent to take into account the negative impact of higher inflation on consumption.

The government's latest 2010 growth outlook likely reflects the new upward adjustment by the central bank of its 2010 inflation forecast to 9-11 percent from 7-9 percent, one-notch upgrades than the 5-percent median forecast of economists in the poll.

A Reuters poll in July forecast 5.1-percent growth in GDP this year, substantially lower than the three-decade peak of 7.2 percent in 2007.

Economists expect the monetary authority to further raise rates on Aug. 26 to combat inflation, despite the effect higher policy will have on growth. The central bank has already raised rates by 75 basis points since June in an attempt to rein in inflation.

The central bank said earlier inflation could likely peak in October but would not exceed 11-percent.

Reuters

G&W
Tel: 8804151-52

Sidelined stock investors eye key oil, financials data from US

NEW YORK...QUESTIONS about the sustainability of a commodities rally and persistent concerns about the impact of the credit crisis on Wall Street banks are likely to leave emerging market investors on the sidelines this week.

Traditionally low trading volumes during the last week of August should discourage investors from taking on major risky positions in debt markets, while the fate of emerging equity and foreign exchange markets will be intimately linked to volatile commodities.

Despite a drop in the price of US crude oil of more than $6 per barrel on Friday, prices still ended the week some 80 cents higher amid US-Russia tensions, helping the Reuters/Jefferies CRB index of 19 commodity futures to finish the week 1.3 percent higher.

The rebound in commodity prices renewed inflation fears that led emerging equity markets 1.8 percent lower for the week, as measured by the Morgan Stanley's MSCI index.

But stock markets that are more heavily influenced by the performance of oil and mining companies proved gains.

August dollar gains left emerging sovereign debt spreads, a key gauge of risk aversion, practically unchanged at 298 basis points over US Treasuries, 2 basis points tighter for the week.

Investors' aversion to risk could grow, however, if the US housing slump continues to inundate investment bank write-downs, fueling the credit crisis that threatens the world's largest economy.

The future of US housing finance giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac is also expected to guide market sentiment.

"With the Western World's financial systems still partially paralyzed or dysfunctional, access to credit tightening further and global growth risks spreading, it is very difficult to be overly optimistic on markets over term," RBC said.

A heavy US economic calendar is also expected this week, with a series of housing data, Fed minutes, durable goods orders and, most importantly, Friday's personal income data, which includes the Fed's preferred inflation gauge. Reuters

US dollar, Asia stocks rebound but risks remain

HONG KONG...THE US DOLLAR rose broadly yesterday hitting a two-year high against sterling, with a downtrend in commodity prices intact, leaving investors worrying to buy-back the currency and sparking a rebound in Asian stocks.

European stock markets were expected to open little changed, according to financial bookmakers, with volumes likely lower than average because of a UK public holiday.

Bounce reports showing shrinking or no economic growth in Britain, the euro zone and Japan have boosted the attraction of the dollar as an alternative investment, especially with crude prices trading more than $20 below a record high hit in July.

A rally in the dollar stalled last week after hitting a six-month high against the euro, but an upward trend in the US currency is now intact.

Even billionaire investor and long-time dollar detractor Warren Buffett, chair of conglomerate Berkshire Hathaway Inc., came to the currency's aid on Friday when he said in a television interview that he had no bets against the dollar.

Crude drop not enough to spark rally

Asian stocks rebounded from a two-year low as the drop in oil prices back below $120 a barrel lifted shares of companies sensitive to energy prices, though trading volumes across the region were quite thin, suggesting a lack of conviction among investors.

Japan's Nikkei share average ended up 1.7 percent, after shares of Japan's second largest car maker, Honda Motor Co., led the way higher.

The MSCI pan-Asia ex-Japan index was up 1.6 percent, after hitting the lowest since July 2006 on Friday. The MSCI Asia-Pacific ex-Japan index was 1.2 percent.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index led the region, up 3 percent after plumbing a one-year low on Friday. Oil crept up to $115, after suffering the biggest daily decline since 2004 on Friday on Russia's pledge to withdraw the bulk of its troops from Georgia and the controversial passing of Tropical Storm Fay over the Gulf of Mexico.

Crude's large drop so far, however, is, but not been enough to entice bond managers to take on more risk for higher returns.

Some investments used to ease acute risk have been reflecting relatively low market volatility, and equity valuations have become attractive.

Hopes of a rescue for beleaguered Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. pushed up shares in the investment bank on Friday after the state-run Korea Development Bank said on Friday buying Lehman is an option.

Still, regional risk measures show investors loosen to continue more surface than ready to dive back into markets in search of bargains.

"Even with oil prices down, the global liquidity and valuation very much with us," said Clive Mc-Donnell, regional strategist with BNP Paribas in Hong Kong.

"US and European portfolio managers continue to reduce risk in their portfolios; emerging markets are the highest risk asset class, because we are suffering disproportionately." he said. Reuters

From the hatans of Batanes
to the Tawi-tawians of Tawi-Tawi
Unites the Filipino
JRS EXPRESS
Serving the Filipino since 1960
www.jrs-express.com

Bernanke looks for new regulatory approach

JACKSON HOLE, WYO.—US Federal Reserve chair Ben Bernanke's suggestion that financial supervision be revamped to take into account the health of the entire system is a logical response to events that has stunned, but may be a difficult concept to execute.

A year into a financial tsunami unleashed by the spread of bad mortgage debts to credit instruments held around the world, Bernanke last week suggested supervisors consider closer day-to-day risk regulatory approach.

"Supervisors often focus on institutions in isolation," he said on Friday at the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank's annual monetary policy conference here.

An alternative approach, which the latter called 'system-wide or macroprudential' oversight, would broaden the mandate of regulators and supervisors to encompass consideration of potential systemic risks and weaknesses as well," he said.

Any overhaul of the US regulatory system, however, is unlikely to take place until after a new president takes office in January and even then may not be among the first priorities of a new administration and Congress.

The Fed has already broadened its role in ensuring financial system stability with its organization of the sale of Bear Stearns and its creation of emergency lending facilities for other investment banks.

Usually, the Fed only lends to commercial banks.

A move to give supervisors formal responsibility for broad financial stability would make sense in a way to prevent problems from escalating to the point where they require government intervention, participants at the conference said. Reuters

China plans $54-B stimulus package

BEIJING...CHINA IS CONsidering an economic stimulus plan worth $54 billion, including tax cuts and government spending to prop up growth, state media reported Monday.

The 370-billion yuan proposal, which has yet to be finalized, includes 220 billion yuan in fiscal spending and 150 billion yuan in tax cuts, the Economic Observer reported, citing unnamed sources.

The Central Financial Leading Group, which is composed of senior officials from various government agencies, supports the plan but it still needs to be submitted to the State Council, or cabinet, the weekly newspaper said.

The proposal is meant to "spur the economy some breathing room" following a slowdown after necessary tightening, the report said, adding that the Ministry of Finance is to work out the plan's details.

The report comes after JP Morgan Chase economist Frank Gong said in a note last week that Beijing was studying an economic stimulus package of up to 400 billion yuan to boost growth.

Chinese economic growth eased to 10.4 percent in the first half of 2008 from 11.9 percent for all of last year.

"There are concerns that weakening export growth due to the global slowdown could hurt the Chinese economy.

However, any new measures will be mainly fine-tuning and drastic policy changes are not necessary, Yao Jingyuan, a researcher with the State Information Centre, a government think tank, said in remarks published Monday.

"There have been positive changes in trade, retail sales and investment figures "so there is no need to be drastic in macroeconomic control in the second half of the year," Yao told the official China Securities Journal. AFP

PSBank Prime Time Deposit
6.50%* Guaranteed
Interest paid monthly
• Minimum of P50,000
• 5-year placement, tax-free

Hitachi sees 400% rise in Laguna production

Company focus shifts from manufacturing to research and development, exec says

By Riza T. Olchondra

HARD DISK DRIVE AND COMPONENTS manufacturer Hitachi Global Storage Technologies is targeting a 400-percent increase in production at its Laguna facility this year, country president Yasuo Tou said in an interview.

"Last year we produced 70 million pieces [of] hard disk drives and components. This year, this number is about 280 million, next year it will be close to 400 million. Right now we are making one million per day so that is almost 300 million for the year," he said.

But Tou said the facility was not just aiming for bigger production volume but also for further improvements in the quality of its products.

The facility's hard disk drives power MP3 players, personal media players and portable storage products. It also produces HDD components such as sliders and magnetic heads.

"We are focusing on value-added engineering so we need research and development to provide more sophisticated technologies for customer products," he said.

Hitachi GST in that investing $70 million to $90 million this year to fund research and development, as well as manufacturing innovations.

The company's investments in previous years focused on manufacturing. Recently, the focus shifted to research and development because it wants the Laguna facility to support technology research for GST worldwide, Tou said.

"We are moving beyond simple production, we are adding more intellectual capital," he said.

Hitachi GST recently donated $2 million worth of laboratory equipment to the Ateneo de Manila University and the University of the Philippines to aid engineering and science education. The donation forms part of Hitachi GST's program to spur hard disk drive research and development.

Rosario Alcaraz-Soo, Hitachi GST vice president and general manager for its hard business group, said Hitachi was looking forward to the future engineers and scientists that would be produced by universities in the Philippines.

"Hitachi has been manufacturing hard drives and components embodying in the Philippines for more than 13 years now, and we continue to be impressed by its highly skilled workforce. We recognize the tremendous potential of these future scientists and engineers, which is why we are investing in developing and rewarding local talent," he said.

Malacañang Palace Press Corp. manager Stephen Candilla (from left) and Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap talk to Singapore Meat Traders Association officials led by its president, Bobi Lian Heng (right), after a tour of the MMPC facility. The Singaporean government recently allowed the entry into Singapore of pork from the Philippines after approving the accreditation of MMPC, a Filipino-owned company with modern slaughterhouse and meat processing facilities in Polomolok, South Cotabato.

TVI Pacific seeks financiers for Balabag study

By Ronnel N. Dionisio

CANADIAN MINE TVI PACIFIC INC. IS IN talks with possible financiers for the final stage of a feasibility study that will confirm findings on the Balabag gold prospect in Zaragoza in del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay, which current estimates give a net present value of between $500 million and $1.5 billion.

TVI Pacific said completing a full feasibility study could take between one-and-a-half and two years and that it was "moving quickly" to decide to start the process.

Also, the firm explained in a statement that the purpose of the study was to assess the mining potential of a mineralized zone, commercial scale mining operations invested on the Balabag deposit and to provide figures on an economic potential.

The company said the Geneva Limited Partnership, the consultant that conducted the preliminary scoping study, urged for a quick start on the feasibility work to allow for assessing all necessary operating permits and to enable the TSE Bank to reach a production decision in a timely manner.

"Once an investment decision has been reached, the construction time is estimated to be two years," the firm said.

"Management believes that this period could be shortened by as much as eight months, should a commitment be made to refurbish an existing hopping road in order to provide access to the site," it added.

TVI Pacific's first production project was the Canatuan gold mine, which had stocked down earlier this year following depletion of mineral deposits there.

PUBLICLY LISTED SECURITY BANK and Trust Co. just became the first bank to secure a Bangko Sentral license for issuing financial instruments called derivatives.

As everybody knows, except perhaps pawnshops and money changers, the BSP has tightened its rules on such financial instruments.

But the sale of the action starts in the Senate, derivatives are not living things, because they are banking products that help business reduce risks.

In effect, derivatives are contracts that can be traded, with their values following the changes in the prices of the assets in the contracts such as bonds, stocks, currencies, or anything under the sun.

I mean, even the weather can be part of the "variables" in a derivative.

What I am saying is that derivatives can be quite risky—particularly since most of them are highly leveraged.

That is the reason why the BSP watches the banks closely in doing business in derivatives. Doing derivatives, to a bank, is not unlike to gambling in that you can lose your pants and shirt, and everything underneath.

Anyway, its new BSP license, which was the first to be issued to a bank, now allows Security Bank to cultivate more "sophisticated" derivatives.

The other banks have until January next year to get their BSP licenses. Or else the BSP will bar them from issuing derivatives.

But what now for Security Bank?

Rafael Algarra Jr., head of the bank's treasury group, said the bank was expanding the choices of "hedging" to its clients.

He said the bank could now offer more sophisticated "tailor-made" derivatives.

Read that as "tailor-made" derivatives.

* * *

OVER in Pilipinas, one thing lurches its government officials on the controversial Bangsamoro Juridical Entity memorandum of agreement before getting peddled by the new administration.

And that is, well, why on earth can the big business groups in Pilipinas keeping quiet, particularly those in the areas affected by the MOA.

As everybody knows, except perhaps the government's panel in the peace negotiations with the MILF, the people of Pilipinas have been adamant in not wanting to have anything to do with any Muslim government in whatever form, shape and figure.

They have voiced out so much in four public hearings already, he pointed out.

Anyway, under the new MOA of this new administration, two towns of the province are supposed to be covered by the BJE, namely, Sulubaa (an island) and Batanes.

Now, the most populous barangay in the municipality of Batanes is the one called Ibo Tabu.

That is the site of the highly profitable mining company of the Zamora brothers, called Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp., which has been raking billions upon billions of pesos in income due to the high price of nickel in the world market in the past several years.

The company also put up a $380-million processing plant under the company Coral Bay Nickel Corp.

It was a joint venture between the Zamora group and Japanese investors, designed to extract nickel from low-grade ores in the Rio Tuba mines that were previously considered as waste.

I mean, really, they have an insolvency driver in the BJE-MOA contravening don't you think?

* * *

SUFFERDERRY knows, one of the to Bienvital Zamora brothers is Rep. Rosalido Zamora (who was also the executive secretary of ousted President Joseph Estrada), aka the mastermind behind ... Wow! Hunk.

The mining company, in other words, has some political clout.

Not only that, it is said that the two other brothers, namely Manny and Bobby, are allies of the Arroyo administration.

In fact, Manny was said to have hosted recently the visit of President Arroyo, together with First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo, to the island province.

With the First Couple were Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and partner.

Word going around town is that the "visit" had something to do with the sale of an island owned by an old-time politician to one of the business tycoons who was also allied with the Arroyo administration.

The island happens to be part of Balabac town.

Oops, that is the same town in the controversial MOA. And the seller and buyer of this island is not the usual bit concerned over the prospect of having the BJE rule in their island? Hmm.

* * *

JUST about a month ago, evidence almost seeped in the city of Koronadal over the nickel mining site in Siocon, which PGMC used to operate under an agreement with the claim owner Olympic Mines. It seems that the Climbed group sent those armed men to the mine site to try to take possession of the mining campsite, which was part of the claim—that is owned by the state.

But to get to the campsite, you have to go through the stretch of land that was owned by the PGMC.

The Climbed "army" apparently wanted to take control of that piece of land, too.

Bloodshed was prevented only when the provincial contingent of the PNP sent reinforcement to the mine site, and Climbed withdrew its men.

License to till

BREAKTIME

Conrado B. Banal III

Legacy Group banks hold big chunk of RB system deposits

10 rural banks dispute report

THE GROUP OF RURAL BANKS involved in a legal tussle with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) over their alleged "undercapitalized" status yesterday issued a statement saying the published account of the regulator's findings "was marked by grave error."

The lawyer of the 10 so-called "Legacy Group banks," along with two of public relations agents, gave the business two separate statements yesterday, both disputing reports that those banks were insolvent. (See related story on this page.)

The statement provided by Legacy Group executive Vicente Noel quoted a position paper issued by the banks saying that the group had combined assets of P17.0 billion and liabilities of P18 billion.

"Our assets are even higher by P1.4 billion vis-à-vis our total liabilities, how can we be insolvent?" it said. "Since that insolvency is where liabilities are more than assets."

Further on allegation of undercapitalization, all 10 rural banks are operating and in data, there have never been any unsecured withdrawals," the statement added.

The statement also stressed that Sto. Domingo, Albay Mayor Celso de los Angeles Jr. was "falsely identified" as a shareholder of the 10 rural banks.

"The author inexplicably falsely quoted Attorney Noel when he stated that she said that he was a stockholder of all the 10 rural banks," the statement said. "De los Angeles is neither an officer nor a director of Legacy Consolidated Plans Corp., but is merely a minor stockholder thereof."

"He is not an officer, stockholder, director of any of the rural banks, a minor stockholder in some and an investor in about four of these rural banks."

The statement also quoted De los Angeles as saying the published report about the 10 rural banks were "politically motivated."

"This is part of a smear campaign against him as he had recently exposed the cunning operations in Bicol, the underdevelopment of the remittance of BTL (small town lottery) operations in the same area, and likewise served notice about irregularities in Albay Electric Cooperative (Aleco)," the statement said.

Danilo Lucas

By Gaeru L. Lucas

(last of 2 parts)

THE STATISTICS BACKED UP BY a small group of rural banks are jaw-dropping when one pared to the rest of the industry.

According to data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, there are 2,051 rural banks in the country holding combined deposits of P188.1 billion. Thus, each rural bank holds an average of P83.7 million in deposits.

Higher than average

Court documents obtained by the Inquirer reveal, however, there were 10 rural banks that, when taken together, defy the national averages.

These banks are Rural Bank of Pandacan, Inc.; Rural Bank of San Jose (Batangas), Inc.; Rural Bank of Carmen (Cebu) Inc.; Philippine Rural Bank Inc.; Philippine Countryside Rural Bank Inc.; Rural Bank of Calatagan (Batangas) Inc. (now Dynamic Rural Bank); Rural Bank of DARNCI Inc.; Rural Bank of Kananga (Leyte) Inc. (now First Interstate Rural Bank); Rural Bank of Buenavista Marinduque (now Bank of East Asia) and San Pablo City Development Bank Inc.

11% of total deposits

According to the BSP, these banks hold a combined deposits of P12 billion based on latest estimates—or an average of P1.2 billion in deposits per rural bank.

These 10 banks have entered a staggering 11 percent of all deposits of the nationwide rural banking system.

Except for San Pablo City Development Bank, all were found by central bank examiners to be undercapitalized during their latest audit done on July 31, 2007.

Special Report

The Inquirer tried to reach the businessman Celso G. de los Angeles—the man linked by the central bank to all 10 banks—but was told by his staff at the Legacy Group office that he was unavailable. Instead, the business was contacted soon after by Ed Cordeviola who claimed to be the "financial public relations officer" of Rural Bank of Pandacan, who also arranged for a meeting with the group's legal counsel Victoria Noel.

Noel said De los Angeles used to be the chair of the Legacy Group which, in turn, owned shares in the banks in question.

She conceded, however, that De los Angeles was also "a stockholder" of all 10 banks but added that she "cannot accurately say" how much of the firms' shares were owned by the businessman.

"He's just a stockholder," she said.

'Lack of due process'

Noel explained the rural banks' main complaint with the central bank was the latter's "lack of due process" in handling the audits of the banks.

According to her, the BSP should first show its audit findings to the banks involved before submitting them to the Monetary Board.

"This is the proper procedure which they observed before, during the past years," she said.

"The action we took [seeking a TRO from the court] is only because of the failure of the BSP to observe due process," Noel explained.

Preventing asset dissipation

In its petition with the Court of Appeals, however, the central bank disputed this, saying "there is no evidence that the respondent banks were furnished copies of the [examination reports] before they were submitted to the Monetary Board in prior years."

More importantly, the central bank argued that the prevailing TRO against regulators "establishes a dangerous precedent" because it sets counters in the "close rein, loose leash" doctrine that allows the BSP to preserve the assets of all underbankers.

"[This] doctrine is grounded on general and legal considerations to prevent unwarranted dissipation of the banks' assets and as a valid exercise of police power to protect the depositors, creditors, stockholders and the general public," it told the Court of Appeals.

Whose money is at stake?

Such the central bank and the rural banks say that they are working to protect the interests of the depositors, and the court has yet to rule on the petition.

Regardless of the outcome, however, it is clear that billions of pesos will be involved.

It is only a question of whose money it will be—the banks' depositors or the taxpayers?

ESA
ENTREPRENEURS SCHOOL of ASIA
Degree Programs
Entrepreneurship
Business Administration*
2nd Retail Management Seminar Series
Entrepreneurship
Marketing, HR Management
www.entrepreneur.edu.ph Tel: 638-1188

CCTV SECURITY for ALL!
SecuraCare SECURITY
4 Channel DVR
2 Day & Night Camera
2 IR Cable
Wiring Installed
Secure homes, offices, banks warehouses, & shops
FOR AS LOW AS
P9,900

Gov't beefs up agri dev't fund

by Ana R. Roxas

STATE-RUN FIRMS HAVE INfused close to P600 million to the Agricultural Guarantee Fund Pool, which provides small farmers with access to cheap loans.

In a recent forum, Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap reported that government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs) had already remitted P600 million to the Land Bank of the Philippines, the lead financial manager of the AGFP.

This fund was put up in line with Administrative Order No. 225-A, which requires all GOCCs and GFIs to remit 5 percent of their net income to the new credit facility for food productivity projects.

The P6.5-AGFP funds could be availed of by rural banks, development banks, irrigators associations (IAs), rice millers and grains traders to guarantee loans of small farmers.

"Farmers filling a maximum of 5 hectares each and who have not been able to obtain collateral-free credit from the formal banking sector can now borrow from government or private financial institutions and have as high as 95 percent of their loans secured through this guarantee fund," Yap explained.

He said the new facility will extend guarantees to eligible loans or financing exposures of eligible institutions.

It will be maintained for five years, subject to another five-year extension or duly be agreed upon by the Department of Agriculture and Landbank.

Whatever your taste, you'll find yourself at home in Woodsville Viverde Mansions located at the heart of Manila, Paranaque.
With 70% open spaces featuring 7 nature-themed landscaped gardens equipped with various amenities and a village mall, there's something to suit every lifestyle.
So when you consider that it's only a 10-minute drive from Makati, the hardest decision is picking the view you like most.
Woodsville Viverde Mansions is a multi-cluster mid-rise building with available Studio, 1BR, 2BR and 3BR units.
Woodsville VIVERDE
Pay for a 24BR unit for as low as Php19,894 per month
with Super Easy Home - a NO DOWNPAYMENT, NO BALLOON PAYMENT financing plan!
SUPER EASY
Visit www.woodsville.com.ph or call 438-0888 or 0922-4380888 for more information.
ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION

LIFESTYLE Wellness

Editor Thelma Sinsin San Juan

Change your breathing pattern to release toxic energies

By Rita Penaredondo Regis
Contributor

HAVE YOU EVER LISTENED to your breath? If not, observe how you inhale right now. Is it full and satisfying or is it shallow? What about your exhale, is it short or longer than your inhale?

Breath is not just the air that comes in and out of our nostrils. It is the "prana" or life force that gives vitality and sustains our very existence. Yet, we hardly pay attention to the full value of breath and take it for granted. The word breath is "anima" in Latin, which also means spirit. It is spirit that animates life.

Our first breath and last breath comprise the parenthesis of our life span. In between birth and death, the breath connects the body with the mind and the rest of human faculties. Our first inhale on our own, which happens at the moment of birth, is the sign to the outer world that we are alive. At the end of life the breath may become more shallow, labored or painful before it comes to a halt at the last exhale.

Breath exercise

Allow me to guide you into a simple exercise in breath awareness. Start comfortably with your spine straight. By inhaling deeply and exhaling completely, allow your body to totally relax from head to feet. Bring to mind an experience in the past that made you so angry and notice how you breathe. Then rigorously inhale and exhale. (Assert breathing, minimum of 10 min) to change the pattern of your breathing. Now stop and get a feel of the new sensation that you have in your breath subtly flows through your nostrils and into every part of your body. Changing the pattern of your breathing is a technique you can use to release unwanted energies held in your memory, as well as tune energies from your system.

As grown-ups, we may have forgotten how we used to breathe when we were little children. Examples: A baby in deep sleep, breathing effortlessly as the belly pulsates in perfect rhythm. Watch out cats and you, the baby breather, exalted in constant state of peace and joy that radiates through an angelic smile.

If you would like to know the pattern of your breathing, ask your roommate to observe you while you sleep. Do you snore, or gasp, or even hold your breath on occasions? Since the natural of your breath may be one or the? Or perhaps you are fortunate to still be sleeping like a baby breathing deeply and rhythmically to tell cycles.

Breath awareness, as a practice, will help you discover more and more about yourself. This is why certain meditation techniques involve the observation of your breath which is a process that can bring you to an inner space of stillness and peace. It is in this state that natural healing happens.

Rita Regis, renowned Crystal therapy in the Philippines in 1986 and has authored three books on crystal power. She facilitates workshops on Crystal Healing, Dance Movement Therapy, Artists Awareness, Yoga and Meditation here and abroad for individuals and groups. (Her e-mail address is ritaregis@yahoo.com)

Out of the dark and into the light

WHEN A PERSON IS IN A state of confusion or ignorance, he or she is in the dark. There, then, is presupposition that to get out of the darkness one should be "enlightened."

But to do that, you need to find the light switch. How does one control it?

Begin with yourself. Know the following basic truths:

1. Light is consciousness. It is the level and state of awareness of your mind.

2. All thoughts are non-physical. Ten cannot see nor touch them, but they can produce an effect on yourself and others.

3. Thought is energy.

4. All thoughts are either positive (high frequency) or negative (low frequency). There is nothing in between.

5. Thought = emotion = current of energy. All thoughts are connected to emotion.

6. Your own awareness of your level of thought will indicate your presence yourself from negative energy.

You are in the dark whether it is depression, sadness, anger or anything else. You can step into the light by:

- Thinking about happy moments, good memories and removing the lightness/fullness of heart you feel in the past.
- Keeping the good and discarding bad feelings. Somebody once said, "Throw your negative thoughts in the garbage because that's where they belong."
- Bless each day and every person in your life. Make this a daily habit.
- Give thanks for all miracles great and small every. If there have not yet been given to you.
- Keep the faith and believe all your prayers have already been answered.

Visualization

Imagine you have an internal helper — a heavenly creature in the shape of cuddly little butterflies. Each negative thought is a black butterfly. Every time you think of something bad or vicious, your catcher will take it away.

Do you know that obsessive behavior is a product of stress? It can be caused either by good or bad stress. Examples: Stress of the death of a loved one is caused by excitement at a basketball championship game (especially if it is La Salle vs. Ateneo). It could result in hiccups, panic attacks and even hysterics.

1. Focus on slow breathing.

2. Get a brown paper bag. Breathe in and out of the bag slowly 10 times (breathe normally 10).

3. Drink a glass of water and pinch your nose (while drinking) in the case of hiccups.

Most women in Asia want to have fair complexion. Apart from taking whitening pills like AFT Glutathione with Vitamin C and alpha lipoic acid, a papaya papaya, you should avoid the sun, wear sunblock, do weekly body scrubs and even massage your face with coconut oil, probably Cocogen.

Affirm: "I am in the light."

Love and light!

Reference: "The Soul of the Soul" by Gary Zukav

Just One Treatment Guarantees 2cm Waist Reduction

Frustrated and tired of doing strenuous workouts because your bulging belly won't budge? Most medical experts agree that the main function of ab exercises is to tone the muscles, not to eliminate a significant amount of fat. So even if you're doing a lot of crunches – chances are your hard work may not be enough to remove your stubborn fat.

What every man should know is that there's a faster, easier and more effective bare-belly baste – ULTRASHAPE.

With Ultrashape, all you have to do is just comfortably lie down and scientifically relax while losing excess inches off your waist. It works by using ultrasound waves that are applied from outside the tummy, which penetrate and "melt away" the targeted fat without damaging tissues or blood vessels. The liquefied fat are absorbed into the blood stream and flushed from the body through natural processes. One treatment session allows you to drop – from off your waist! – giving you a flatter belly and you reach your desired size. Without you doing any strenuous workout!

What's even better is that, unlike surgical procedures, Ultrashape is a non-invasive method of tummy flattening. You can even catch up on your sleep or read some news while undergoing the treatment. Absolutely no anesthesia required. You can resume your normal activities immediately after the treatment because there's absolutely no downtime! So quick and easy, you can have it during your lunch break or spare time.

Ultrashape has been tested and proven effective. In fact, many men are amazed with how this treatment has helped them lose their gut and made them look, feel and live better!

Ultrashape is available at Marie France FOR MEN. Phone for a NO-COST body-fat analysis. All consultations are carried out in private. Call **813-7950** now and get a flatter tummy in no time!

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN

TULDOK — BY FRANK CHU

FUSAO BARDY — BY MR. JUNIOR

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HIMBOKDENGE — BY JOHNNY TIJESO

SALAMIN — BY DARWIN PEREZ

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBBY — BY LISA CARCELLANO

LOVEBUNOTE — BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

KIKO MACHINE — BY MARK ARISTA

Sorry, Buddy. I'm Sleeping.
Hey, Kiko, Wake Up!
Hey, Kiko, Wake Up!
Hey, Kiko, Wake Up!

SOCIO-CIVIC leader Rose Marie Arenas posed for posterity at her birthday celebration at Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

SECRETARY Ambler "Nancy" Cruz, Rep. Boying Remulla, Arenas, Joy Campos, Rep. Rachel Arenas and Rep. Carlos Olivan Encinthods

MEMPH and Billy Esposo Standing: Sister Sr. Arenas, Ambassador Precious Salmon and Wilson Tieng

LONG TIME pals Eduardo Cellan and wife Mary

SEN. Richard Gordon

PROFESSOR Maria Tigata, publicist Tony Quiorato, Ambassador Lee Bridges, heroine gives autobiography Mila Alava, Standing: Philippine Star's Joanna Ramirez, Rep. Rex Gordolitas, Mayor Cellan Tordesillas, Rep. Arenas and lawyer Mike Toledo

Interesting personalities attend Baby Arenas' birthday bash

BFA Rachel Arenas of 3rd District of Pangasinan and Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap

DFA Tess, regional director Alicia Alcala, Marites Douglas Window Covering Product Specialist and Engr Abiel M. Lapitan, DFA chief operations Marites Bautista, Philippines

BOI Pinoys with brothers Carlo and Arnon Cuevo

REELY Chan and Sharika Tanmantong

THE POPULAR DARLING OF the elegant Mandarin Oriental Manila hosted with excitement when the indefatigable philanthropist Hermenia "Baby" Arenas celebrated another beautiful year with her Wednesday luncheon lunch bunch. Siblings.

She looked fantastic and stylish in her button top. Baby thanked her lovely sisters while holding a bunch of flowers presented to her. Some Don't Miss's celebrants clamored in. Sorsia, siblings.

As expected in any gathering of Baby, her well-wishers were a mix of diplomatic, business, political and media people. Present were Italian Ambassador Stefano Beltrio, Saudi Arabian Ambassador Mishal Ameen Wali, Archive Mismed Lazaro, former Secretary Ambler Cruz, former three secretary and now DFI top honcho Mike Toledo, many representatives of Congress Boying Remulla, Rex Gordolitas and Gutrea Corrolleria with her daughter Rachel Arenas, mom likely talking about politics.

Mrs. Wednesday Group gang and close pals Sis Mila Alava and Lee Bridges; Marilou and Tony Quiorato and daughter-in-law Maryanne were here, there and everywhere inside the room, endlessly entertaining the lovers, paloogies.

Before you could say "goodbye," Baby and her hardworking daughter Rachel announced all is lining up for a bigger birthday bash with the 'coronation of the third degree.'

One thing is sure, our Queen for a Day is surely blessed for she always has blessings aarty others.

Cheers, paloogies!

Chic way to rest

When style is the topic of conversation, siblings, fashion trends and beauty tips are usually up front. But what one often forgets is that nothing beats a good shower.

A chic way to rest is by using the renowned Hunter Douglas, the world leader in window coverings and architectural products, together with pair's new Bed Talk and S. Hunter Design Concepts, which recently unveiled the "Home Showcase." An awesome blonde hub using Echo that features the Hunter Douglas Window Fashion Gallery is other window treatments for opening up bedroom layouts.

Special guests were Sen. Miguel Zubiri and wife Audrey Tan.

"Being a public figure, I often entertain visitors. I had done so in my bedroom, and looking around, we agreed that we can definitely enjoy an improved quality of rest," said Zubiri.

Tall, dashing Sen Tito, Hunter Douglas regional head Eva Asia, posed to dearly from Malaysia, and Ched Anne Lapitan, Hunter Douglas Philippines' brilliant president, are here.

"Through Hunter Douglas window fashions, the bedroom can become a cozy and chic sanctuary for mother and baby," said Lapitan, paloogies.

Guest include soul saxophone player Vince Lubrera (contact is three-y mood while interior designers, architects and home owners hovered around the al-fresh showroom displays.

Hunter Douglas window fashions amplify the bedroom experience by giving total privacy, protection from the sun and a perfect look," said Ched Dalapat, Senior Cross Marking Manager Communications Inc.

Need not say more? Well! Check it out paloogies. Hunter Douglas Window Fashions Gallery is at Home Showcase Showroom, Bergen Bldg., Boundaryer, Makati. Call 897-2229 or e-mail inquiry@myhedhk.com.

Mac exhibit

Mac was extremely glad that I went to his fantastic and very cute exhibit of two awesome art lover world-class Filipinoiana designers Paris Tavares and architect-artist Romulo Galicano.

Simply called "Persons," obviously, the exhibit is ongoing at the Tali Gallery at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila.

The exhibit features some 52 portraits and paintings of Galicano and an awesome 20 Filipiniana dresses and 19 bronze doll sculptures of Paris T., no less. Check it out soon, paloogies.

Aptly the artist type of cocktail and wine, the grand highlight was the launching of an original Galicano oil on canvas "In Like ng Sun," which was won by lucky Bidder and Lawyer Lucy while paloogie Douglas lawyer Joy Mari Tayzon were home with the Tavares Bravo doll which was stuffed off later in the evening.

The glittering invitees included internationally artist Jumwal Eamon Greenfields Development Corp. president Jeffrey Campos, Evelyn Barbaza and Dr. Margarita Holmes, Red and Neal Bueller, Regina and Gina Legaspina of Hello City and Danang Regaspina, siblings.

Naturellement, we must congratulate the creative team behind the "Portraits" catalogue and the others who made this project a smashing success, siblings.

Call 8125194.

JO-ANN Arriagado, Joanne Salgado, our paloogie Ethel Tinsbol and renowned painter Jawad Sanso

JOSH Lichtrich, Lolo Tee Ben-Gerts and Cindy Velez

WORLD-CLASS designer Paris Tavares and furniture partner artist Romulo Galicano

The dead give messages for their relatives through her

HERE'S AN INTERESTING QUESTION from Michelle, who took one of my seminars on Inner Mind Development: Why do dead people have to put their messages to their loved ones through her in her dreams, rather than tell those to them directly?

This is how Michelle related her interesting story:

"Lately, I have been having these dreams that wake me up at dawn at around 3:00 a.m. These dreams are often about long-dead relatives of mine who have messages for their living relatives.

"When I past these messages [which don't make sense to me] to their living relatives, they turn out to be answers to questions these relatives have been asking.

"Such dreams used to come occasionally but lately they have been happening more often. At first, it was my dead cousin with a message for her family, then my dead cousin's mother with a message for her daughter. Recently, it was my cousin's father who had a message for his son. In short, my cousin's whole family has appeared in my dreams. But even before these, I had a dream of a dead relative who asked me to pass and relay Mass for him.

"Are these just coincidences? Can you enlighten me about the meaning of these dreams?"

Well, it seems the dead have found a more efficient mail courier than our own Philippine Postal Service. At least, if the messages are sourced through you, they don't get lost or mis-delivered.

Seriously speaking, the answer to your question is rather simple one. The law always obtains is: you see a medium in channel of the spirit, whether you believe in one and whether you believe in or not.

Many persons are spirit channels or mediums without being aware of such ability. Their psychic energy centers are open, especially their forehead, throat, and (sometimes) psychic centers, called chakras.

Spirits cannot just communicate with anybody, even with their close relatives. They look for channels with the same frequency or vibration through whom they can pass on their important messages. Without such channels or mediums these spirits will not find peace, they will forever be earth-bound until they have completed their business with the living.

Therefore, you are doing a very important job of helping these spirits find peace of mind, or should I say peace of soul!

Psychic sensitivity

The fact that you took one of my inner awareness seminars also strengthened or developed your sensitivities or receptivity to psychic or spirit forces. But all other folks are not born or become mediums. Only those who already have the vibratory harmony coming to the outside, become one.

So, those who are reading this should not be afraid that the unknown would make them see dead people. That's not the case for the majority of my students who incidentally come from all walks of life and professions.

Some people see spirit channels when they are awake. Because an open channel only when you are asleep. Maybe because if you see these dead people while awake, you might freak out or run in fear. These dreams of the dead giving you messages for their relatives, therefore, are not coincidences. They are literally or actually giving these messages through you.

If only you can charge for this point as a metaphysical service, you'll earn a lot of money. Because there are so many restless spirits out there who are looking for good channels or mediums to convey their messages to the living. Only those can they truly rest in peace.

So be thankful you are given the opportunity to do something good and very important for humanity. If you can do this "check" your big Dreamer (in the sky), Dumok Swayze (in the ghost) and Whoopi Goldberg (in the reluctant medium), you will understand the world of the spirit better. This movie tells of the difficulty the newly departed person experiences in getting his message through to the living who do not see him.

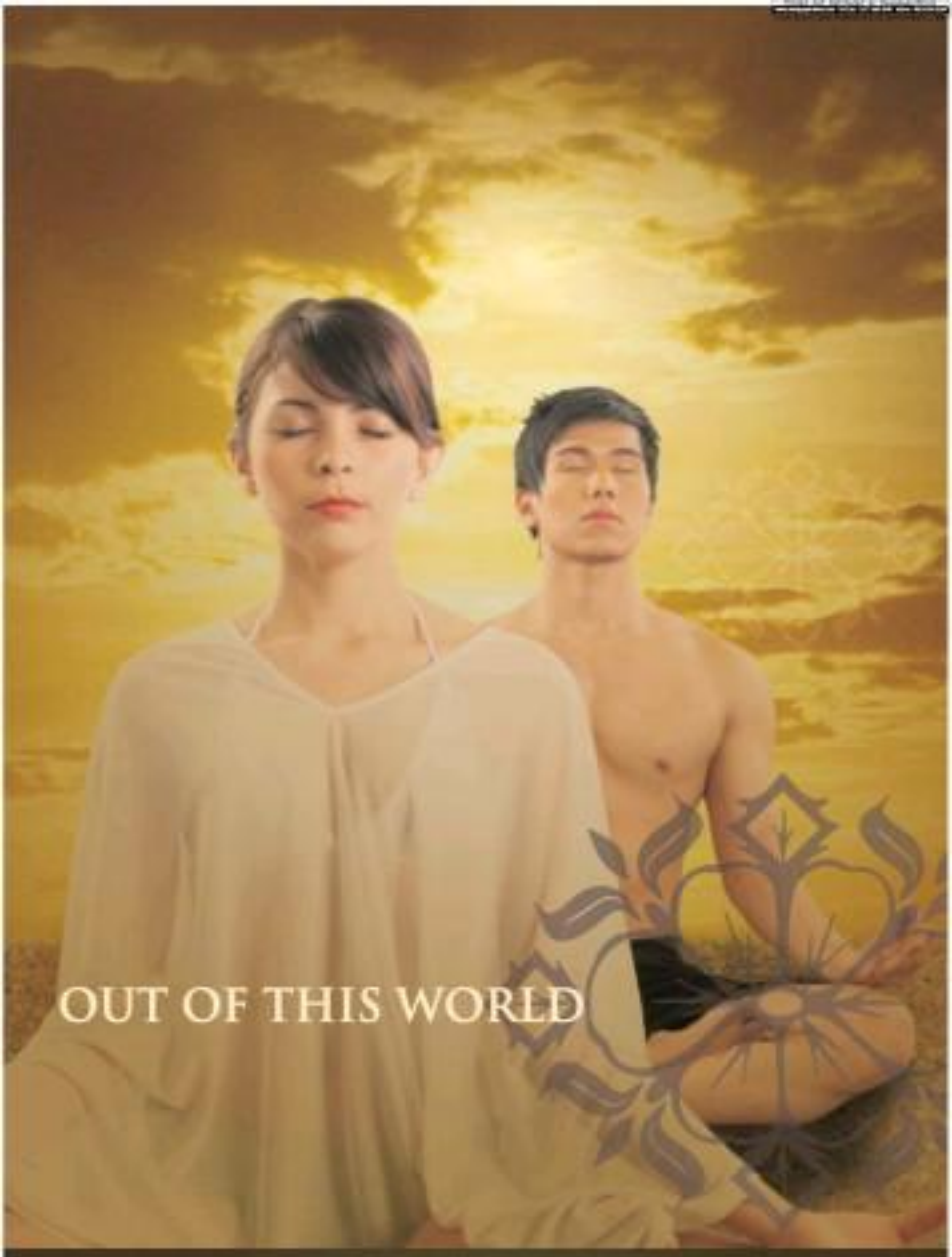
Another reader, whom we shall call Mary, wrote: "Can my guardian or deceased be kept confidential and not to be published?"

Yes, of course, Because the confidentiality of information one to one are always respected. And even her letters are answered publicly and printed in this column. I answers all letters privately and confidentially. But sometimes it takes a few weeks, or surely, even months, before I get to answer them. So, I request my many readers to be patient. But they will surely get an answer sooner or later. No letter is ignored.

Note: The next Inner Awareness Retreat-seminar will be held Aug. 30, 1-7 p.m., and the four-Mind Development seminar will be held Sept. 6-7, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Rm. 208 Prime Plaza I Condo., 306 Gorordo Ave., Cebu. Mobile: 0917-5295 or 0926-6961. Tel. 415-9999; e-mail innerawareness_2000@yahoo.com.ph

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime I. Licauco



Welcome to a realm away from the everyday. Transcend the ordinary and reach the portals of ultimate luxury and serenity. Let LeSpa at Sofitel take you on a sensuous journey of wellbeing through exclusive Signature treatments and body rituals yet to be experienced.

Enter a new world of wellness!

Open 24/7. For reservations, call 551 5555 local 1588 and 6984

LeSpa at Sofitel

Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila

CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City 1300, Metro Manila, Philippines | Tel: (+63) 2 551 5555 | Fax: (+63) 2 551 5858 | www.sofitel.com/ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Life Extras & Velvets

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

ALSO INSIDE: Inquirer.net movie guide for Aug. 26 to Sept. 1 | Globe's and SEC Cinema's ads | Email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

THAT BERNLEE 'THING'

What do Lucio Cavarga, Tirso Tolentino, Gerard Salonga, Nicko Quirino and Bob Aves have in common, aside from being remarkably Pinoy monikers? Puruit/D4

Baron Geisler off to Venice, thanks to Mr M

BARON GEISLER WILL JOIN THE DELEgation of his artistically acclaimed film "Ivy" at the Venice Film Festival tomorrow.

Baron thought he would not be able to attend the festival because he didn't have enough money for the trip. But **Johnny Manahan** told him that Star Magic would help out since it's unthinkable for Baron not to be at the event.

Meanwhile, Baron's portrayal of a maimed husband in "Xerxes" is quite riveting. He has that je ne sais quoi quality which makes you wonder what he's up to next. Even raw dialogue, Baron's one maker for present tenses.

Jolina's dozing

Jolina Magdangal is turning 30, yet she still

BACK TO P2

Dolly Anne Carvajal

DOLLY WOOD

AN EXPERT "Singing Bee" millionaires Pachelle Alejandro and Ana Tegenkamp convict. Aug. 31 per contract.

CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 THE MUMMY: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR
2 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
3 MIDNIGHT FILM FESTIVAL
4 BIG STAR
5 DEATH RACE
6 WALL-E
7 TOKYOTOT
8 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
9 DOBOL TROBOL
10 DOBOL TROBOL

ERMITA

1 BIG STAR
2 WALL-E
3 DEATH RACE
4 DOBOL TROBOL
5 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
6 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
7 THE MUMMY: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR
8 LOVING YOU
9 TOKYOTOT

METRO EAST

1 BIG STAR
2 DEATH RACE
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 LOVING YOU
5 WALL-E
THE MUMMY 3
6 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
7 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
8 TOKYOTOT

NOVALICHES

1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 TOKYOTOT
3 LOVING YOU
4 DOBOL TROBOL
5 DEATH RACE

PIONEER

1 DEATH RACE
2 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
3 BIG STAR
4 TOKYOTOT

STA. ROSA

1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 LOVING YOU
3 TOKYOTOT
4 DEATH RACE

LIPA

1 MEET DAVE
2 LOVING YOU
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

DASMARINAS

1 TOKYOTOT
2 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
3 DEATH RACE
4 DOBOL TROBOL
5 LOVING YOU

INUS

1 LOVING YOU
2 DEATH RACE
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
5 TOKYOTOT

ANGELES

1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 DOBOL TROBOL
3 TOKYOTOT
4 DEATH RACE

STARMILLS

1 TOKYOTOT
2 DOBOL TROBOL
3 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
4 LOVING YOU
5 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
6 DEATH RACE

BACOLOD

1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 WALL-E
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 MY SASSY GIRL
5 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
6 LOVING YOU / THE MUMMY 3

ILOILO

1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 DOBOL TROBOL
3 LOVING YOU
4 WALL-E / THE MUMMY 3
5 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
6 MY SASSY GIRL

SM CINEMA movietime

visit www.smcinema.com

DCINEMA

EXCLUSIVE PRESENTS

METRO MANILA

RESERVED SEATS NOW AVAILABLE

IMAX

THE DARK KNIGHT
P350
THE ALPS
P300
DINOSAURS
P250

THE PODIUM

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
DEATH RACE
LATE SCREENINGS

CINEMA 1
P160

LOVING YOU
DOBOL TROBOL
RESERVED

SOON TO OPEN

LUZON

SOON TO OPEN

VISAYAS • MINDANAO

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMA BRANCHES

Baron Geisler...

Arts page A1

Arts like a hemisphere. "Multitasking on most of my film think Do like Peter Pan who never grows old," Jolera said.

Jao marriage plans only: If Bo Sseng Madrid allow? "We talk about it but ... nothing concrete yet. I'm still waiting for the engagement ring, though. I don't wanna brag but, Baka masabi," Jolera said, giggling. "But I am not in any hurry to get like for the title. I'll say sure album."

"Today," OHN Records concludes 20 ballads and pop songs, including the theme of Jolera' upcoming movie "I, I, I, I, I, I, I, Will of the Wisp." "The song's message is in me. I just go with the flow," she said. "It's child woman overthrow with inner soul-business.

Singing millionaires

"Singing Star" millionaires Rachel Alejandro and Alex Ferguson join forces in "Forever Star" on Aug. 29, 8:30 p.m. at Metrobar Star Hall. Call 722-1847. They will do memorable numbers of 80s and 90s songs in their first concert together, which they hope to take on tour. "Kita nito I were both little adults when we were kids," Rachel roared. "My parents say I was never really a child. I'm a boy in every way except that I like boys, of girls."

But when it comes to Rachel and Alex's repertoire, our money fits off.

Email: avantmyhalo@yahoo.com, lalj@abs.com

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

BIG STAR
WALL-E
STARWARS
DEATH RACE

687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 SILENT FILM FESTIVAL
2 STAR WARS: CLONE WARS
1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30
3 BIG STAR
2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
4 DEATH RACE
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
WALL-E
12:30, 3:45, 5:00, 7:15, 8:30

Watch out for the 2nd International Silent Film Festival
August 4th till September 4th
Cinema 1, Shang Cineplex

Shang's La Plaza

BOYCHOIR
OPENS TOMORROW
THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE DIE EACH DAY
NOT ALL REMAIN DEAD
BASED ON A TRUE STORY
From the Special FX Team that gave you "Hellboy 2" & "Fantastic Four"
THE GRAVEDANCERS
DO NOT DISTURB THE DEAD

Araneta Center

DEATH RACE
BIG STAR
STAR WARS
TORQTOT
DEATH RACE
X-FILES
STAR WARS
WALL-E
3D
SOBOL TRIBEL
LOVING YOU
KUNG FU CHALOVE
ARANETA CENTER EVENTS
NOW OPEN Automatic SUPER CENTRE
Automatic CENTRE
BLIMS
SOGO
LEVELS 1 & 2, AUTOMATIC CENTER BLDG. (FRONTING SHOPWISE & ALI MALL)

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1
1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 DEATH RACE
3 LOVING YOU
4 TORQTOT
GLORIETTA 4
1 WALL-E
2 BIG STAR
3 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
4 THE X-FILES
5 KUNG FU CHALOVE
6 DEATH RACE
7 YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN
GREENBELT 1
1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 DEATH RACE
GREENBELT 3
1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 DEATH RACE
3 YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN
4 WALL-E
5 BIG STAR
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 DEATH RACE
3 BIG STAR
4 YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN
5 WALL-E
AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 DEATH RACE
2 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
3 WALL-E
4 LOVING YOU
MARKET! MARKET!
1 DEATH RACE
2 BIG STAR
3 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
4 TORQTOT
5 LOVING YOU
TRINOMA
1 DOUBLE TROUBLE
2 LOVING YOU
3 BIG STAR
4 TORQTOT
5 WALL-E
6 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
7 DEATH RACE

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

glorietta
GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU
MARKET! MARKET!
CHRISTIAN'S
Ayala MUSEUM
Tri Noma

Experience Show Business at it's Best!
MyCinema is where you can enjoy the latest movies, hang-out and party or do impressive presentations and more with the world-class fare.
mycinema GREENBELT
For inquiries & reservations, pls. call Lissa at 752-1982

GN
BEN 10
OMNITRIX OVERLOAD
Ayala Malls

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU Tri Noma

MUSIC NEWS

Two-in-one jazz concert

THE POSTPONED TWO-IN-ONE concert of George Benson and Al Jarreau on Sept. 9 at the Araneta Coliseum is part of an ongoing tour in support of the "Givin' It Up" album, which the two veteran vocal-singing jazz crossover artists recorded in 2006.

The album won Grammy Awards for "Best Pop Instrumental Performance" for the song "Breezin'" and "Best Traditional R&B Vocal Performance" with Al Jarreau for "God Bless the Child."

Other interesting songs in the the CD are the covers of Irish & Cradle "Summer Breeze," Hall & Oates' "Everytime You Go Away," John Legend's "Ordinary People," Billie Holiday's "God Bless the Child," and "Long Come Rain" — a tribute to Miles Davis and Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa.

The personnel on "Givin' It Up" includes Jim Beard on piano, Paulee Barkers on keyboards, Marcus Miller on bass, and Michael Baker on drums.

It was not announced whether these top-notch musicians will join Benson and Jarreau in the big Dome date.

Jazz heavyweights

Another jazz gig, set on Oct. 18 at the Bacolod Tents, Makati, features pianist John Tesoloff and saxophonist Joe Lovano.

Though smaller in scale, the show is major since the performers are considered heavyweights in their league.

Tesoloff, cubs-bass toured and recorded with Mike Stern, is said to be one of the "big three" of current jazz pianists that include Pat Metheny and Bill Evans.

Lovano, aside from winning the Grammy for Best Large Ensemble Album for "Quid de Themes" in 2008, has variously figured as critics' and readers' polls as Down Beat and the Thru-Ya Times.

Promoters said that ticket-holders to the Bacolodl concert will be treated by Tesoloff and Lovano to a hands-on class during their sound check.

Kapampangan songs

Informally, a Kapampangan cable channel based in the City of San Fernando, and Kalalangan Entmare, a group of multidisciplinary Kapampangan youth-cultural workers, are collaborating to promote "Kalayo" — a videoclip that features Kapampangan songs by young band Agimat (the Wild, Hero Angco Bag's Dalvocalist Ramon Mallad and violinist John Cortes.

Music videos of the theme songs are regularly aired on the television channel. They may also be viewed on the YouTube account of "talapuan."

New digital music store

A new digital music store, MyMusic.ph, has opened its services to subscribers of Smart and Globe. Until soon, Sun Cellular.

Claiming it has close to 10,000 songs licensed from the world's major record labels, MyMusic.ph offers 24/7 digital downloads directly to mobile phones.

Visit http://smart.MyMusic.ph (for Smart subscribers) or http://globe.My-Music.ph (for Globe subscribers). For text users, key in MyMusic and send to 2600.

That Berklee 'thing'

WE ASKED SAXOPHONIST Tots Tolentino, composer-arranger Louie Ocampo, orchestra conductor-manager Gerard Salonga, drummer-book author Pichie Quirino, and guitarist-recording artist-producer Bob Aves what made studying at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts—the same school that produced the likes of Quincy Jones, Branx Hornsby, Keith Jarrett, Steve Vai, Diana Krall, Melissa Etheridge and John Mayer, to name a few—worthwhile.

TOTS TOLENTINO

Bachelor's Degree in Professional Music, 1982

The first things I learned at Berklee were the value of hard work and the importance of tradition.

I was encouraged to never let myself feel 'in the music. I actually had to challenge myself and face my weaknesses headon. Learning from tradition and from each master's accomplishments fueled me, Jimmy Mosher and George Garzone has very much shaped what I am today and continues to influence me even at this late stage of my career.

The ensemble classes were my favorite. Playing with musicians and teachers who arose only once my level helped pull me up to the standard. Being surrounded by excellent players, young and old, helped me confront my fears and realities and to accept what I could and couldn't do.

All things considered, I still write much of my professional abilities and advancement to my hands-on experience in Berklee music scene. The studio and live music environments in Manila polished the ideal in essence I brought home from school.

LOUIE OCAMPO

Film Scoring, 1982

Studying at Berklee gave me the exposure to most of the questions I had about music. It also gave me the confidence I needed for my work...somehow it be arranging, composing, playing the keyboards or serving as mentor.

Berklee exposed me to the different musical genres. I encountered so many talented musicians, inspiring me to work harder at my craft.

The subject I enjoyed most was arranging for the orchestras, because we had the chance to hear what we arranged in real dimensions played by the students...for free. We didn't have to hire an ensemble or orchestra. I also remember being nervous as I saw members bring nervousness by Gene Burton, and the dudes assigned by Music Maestro.

Berklee never felt like school. It was heaven! like the real world of the music industry. Back home, applying everything I learned [to my work] came so naturally.

GERARD SALONGA

Contemporary Writing and Production (currently on leave), 1998

I'm frequently asked how much my Berklee experience (often called the Berklee 'thing') impacted on my studies as a musician. For very particular to refer it as just one month experience, because it made me music throughout life, and not just in one place.

I can't say that I learned everything there, but the time I spent at Berklee was a period of rapid development for me as a musician, not all in a matter of the education itself. It was a combination of other factors, such as the school's proximity to the home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

If I were to narrow down Berklee's most profound effects on me, I would list two things. First, it was a place of great collaboration. For my entire time there, music studio, Berklee has developed its own system of students, and this really clued me in to the nuts and bolts of it. Through Berklee, I'm the all-and end-all of music theory study, it certainly pointed me to the right direction, and set a foundation for my own further investigation.

My favorite classes were the theory and writing classes. I was very lucky to study orchestration with a fantastic teacher named Dobrey Bruno (who has since retired). I just had so much fun. A few of the tests I do get to hear what my music is based on his coaching, and I cannot say that earlier, but composition under his guidance.

Recently, Berklee is where I learned to conduct Copland's "Appalachian Spring," and Stravinsky's "Symphonies Cinq Gestures" (under Leonard Bernstein protégés David Colleluon and George Manuscal).

People think Berklee's just a jazz school?

I'm very grateful for the Berklee "thing." From it, I have been with me lots of contacts, tools, and great memories.

PICHIE QUIRINO

Professional Music and Audio Recording (coursework), 1980

Two very important things I learned at Berklee: world-class professionalism and the right "attitude."

At that time, digital was just coming in. In the commercial room and Berklee was still using analog recording equipment, although I was all state-of-the-art quickly. I enjoyed recording musicians and sitting behind the mixing board in the control room. I realized that music was not just all "playing," that there were other fascinating fields of music study like production, audio engineering, film scoring, electronic music, etc.

I had some of the best teachers at Berklee. My class instructors were Joe Hunt, who recorded several albums with pianist-composer George Russell and many other luminaries in the jazz world. I studied ensemble and big band performance with the legendary John Laporta, Bob Moses, a lyrical saxophonist with several albums to his name, was a good teacher, too. I was lucky to have studied composition with a South African, Michael Gibbs, who once collaborated with guitarist John McLaughlin.

I never had an inkling that I would venture into the organizational side of music, such as my involvement in the Jazz Society of the Philippines, and the running at two books ("Dance Jam Tonite" and "Jazz Appreciation Made Easy: Jazz in Pinoy Philippines") or even producing a documentary ("The Story of Jazz in the Philippines").

What I miss doing now is travelling to other countries to spread the gospel of Pinoy Jazz. Last March, I was in the Hawaii Jazz Festival in Singapore and last June, I was in Hawaii, where I met many Berklee classmates. In October, I'm off to Shanghai. These proselytization would not have prospered without the principles I learned/used at Berklee.

BOB AVES

Composition, 1979

I practice borderless music and have learned to value the education I've received from all the teachers — whether good, classical or any other type of music — of whatever school, genre or style.

The process of learning from other educators/masters of their craft, to my musical horizon widens. I have aspired to reach them, to picking writings or to do an fellow musicians — I would say all these academic. The School then has sculpted me into what I am today and what I practice.

The education I received at Berklee was so valuable as it was unique for my full immersion at that time. My encounter with professional artists — teachers and talented fellow students all in one place, with so much variations of jazz happening all over, as well as the whole experience of living in a different environment, was overwhelming.

My musical teachers Herb Ramsey and Phil Wilson gave me a deep understanding of jazz that I couldn't have acquired anywhere else. Having to the jazz orchestra was a challenge for me, as much as it was a blast just more time sure is than any other subject, including my music.

But while that passion caused me to disregard a lot of other equally important subjects, it gave me a unique insight into the structures of jazz harmony which, today, continues to supply as well as inspire in breaking the rules!

Berklee offered a kind of image benefit, the prestige that one seems to enjoy in the beginning, but which gets moved in time moves on. Because no matter how much one has musically evolved through the years, it is still the "Berklee Brother!"

What have I really gained from Berklee? I would be disrespecting my teachers if I labeled my music "jazz" and didn't swing. Would they be happy with my label in Filipino-world jazz music aren't (think I just applied my jazz education to this ultimate test—to a winner)? Jazz would go, after all, isn't the ultimate quest of education to see one's self free?

Some may raise out on the part where the teachers point out that what they teach is just the start of a long journey to an ultimate goal of self-discovery ... and we're left only with inspiration, our knowledge and experiences as the journey continues.

Podcast-Compiled

Apo goes head to head with Paul Anka Sept. 20

THE CAST OF FOREIGN MUSIC artists set to perform in Manila shows no sign of slowing down.

Late-breaking announcements on the Tickernet.ph website reveal that multi-platinum-selling rapper 50 Cent is booked on Oct. 3 at the Ultra Sports Center in Pasig.

"Batman's Gun Talent" winners Paul Potts is scheduled for a show on Oct. 8 at the PICC Plenary Hall.

Actor-vocalist Jet, on Sept. 20 is at the PICC Plenary Hall, the still active pop-music songwriter Paul Anka goes head to head with the Apo Hiking Society which is celebrating its 40th anniversary with a concert on the same date, but in a different venue, the Araneta Coliseum.

The Music at the CCP

The Philippine Madrigal Singers performs on Sept. 7 at the CCP Main Theater.

The show dubbed "More Than Madrigals," features popular opera pieces and overtures, excerpts from Broadway plays and other musicals featuring the singer with the award-winning choir, as the group is finally tallied, our enthusiast soprano Ms. Cristina Pujalte-Herrera, has become Jonathan Zarate and opera-to-Sibelio Palacio.

Call 832-1125 to 39, 891-9999 or 0917-8442074.

Jaya's small hour

Jaya's "Send in Love" album and tour goes to Libra Basement on Aug. 30 at 7 p.m.

The all-covers CD has reportedly hit gold. An autograph-signing session follows the live shows.

Dance & band show

Bernice Magarino is mounting a contemporary dance and band show on Aug. 29 at the Music Museum.

It features dance groups from Mapúa Institute, San Sebastian, Adventist, Ateneo de Manila and La Consolacion, as well as live performances from college bands Alibis, Batelle City, Bravo Inter, Catharsis and The Lightmen, with guest appearances by Ann Sidart. The fest of Body Special, Gen Index Betsen and Mercedes Bay.

Tune in to 92.3 LiT, Jam 88.3, Mix 103.5, Magic 89.9 and Campus 99.1 for free tickets.

Band-raiser at Duck

Paulo Santos and Top Dawgs perform in "Back to the Dust," a special band-raising show on Aug. 29 and 30, and Sept. 12 and 13, 9 p.m. at Duck Duval Manila's Forum Gun Miguel.

Cover charge is P500 per head. The shows is for the benefit of the victims of Typhoon Frank. Call 687-3000.

SHOW TIME

JAYK

SHOWBIZ